

Hekmatyar insists Rabbani quit

KABUL (R) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar told a U.N. peace mission on Sunday that the resignation of President Burhanuddin Rabbani was the only way to end two years of factional battles that have killed 11,000 people. "The solution for Afghanistan is Rabbani's unconditional resignation, formation of an interim government in which the Mujahideen leaders should not participate," Mr. Hekmatyar said after more than three hours of talks with the mission leader, former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri. He said elections and the withdrawal of all heavy guns from around Kabul were also prerequisites to end rocket and artillery battles that have forced tens of thousands of Kabul residents to flee their homes and left large areas of the city in ruins. "I am optimistic," Mr. Mestiri said after the talks at Mr. Hekmatyar's heavily fortified base in Charsayab, about 20 kilometres southeast of Kabul. Mr. Mestiri met Mr. Rabbani on Saturday and said he had obtained a clearer view of the president's position but was unable to say if he had made progress toward a lasting peace.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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GCC approves multilateral talks

RIYADH (AP) — Six Gulf states Sunday gave their support to upcoming multilateral Middle East peace talks scheduled in Oman and Qatar which this month will allow the first public and official Israeli visit to the region. Later this month, Oman is poised to host a multilateral round on water-sharing later, while Qatar is poised to host a round on disarmament in early May. Bahrain may also host a round on environmental issues in the fall. "The GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) member states supported the entire peacemaking process from the start and it is known that the negotiations have taken two courses, one bilateral and one multilateral," Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal said after a two-day meeting with his counterparts in the alliance. Prince Saud said that from the start, the GCC took part in the multilateral negotiations on the basis that they were related to the outcome of the bilateral peace talks. "This is a situation that continues and GCC participation in these meetings continues as long as there are developments in the bilateral negotiations," he said.

GCC urges continued Iraq sanctions, page 10

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Police unit leaves for Mozambique

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated Interior Minister Salameh Hammad to see off a group of Jordanian police officers who left for Mozambique to join the United Nations force which will supervise the general elections to be held there. Mr. Hammad said it was a source of pride for Jordan to have Jordanian forces participating in peacekeeping efforts around the world. He urged them to shoulder their responsibilities in the best possible manner to preserve the good reputation the Armed Forces enjoy in various parts of the world.

Katushas fired at Israeli-held zone

BEIRUT (R) — Guerrillas fired 10 Katusha rockets into Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon overnight, a pro-Israeli militia radio station reported on Sunday. Voice of the South said the rockets hit the town of Marjayoun, where Israeli forces and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies maintain headquarters, shortly after midnight. The SLA radio said there were no casualties. It said the rockets were fired from an area held by Hizbollah guerrillas.

Yemenis kidnap two Chinese

SANAA (R) — Two Chinese engineers working on a road project in Yemen were kidnapped on Sunday by tribesmen objecting to its construction, diplomatic sources said. The sources said the engineers working on the Jihani-Marib road were kidnapped by two armed tribesmen some 50 kilometres from Jihani, southwest of the capital Sanaa. The tribesmen appeared to be from the same Khawlan tribe which kidnapped three Chinese engineers working on the same road in February, the sources added. The three were later released unharmed after being held hostage for 10 days.

Yeltsin 'undecided' on second term

MADRID (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in an interview published on Sunday his decision whether or not to stand for a second term in 1996 would depend on whether there was anyone available to take over and guarantee stability. "For me, it is not a question of staying or leaving. It is a question of leaving Russia in safe and democratic hands. These hands will have to be capable of holding the Russian rudder steady in heavy seas," he said in an interview published in the Spanish daily El Pais.

2 more sentenced to death in Algeria

PARIS (R) — An Algerian court sentenced two militants to death on Sunday for the attempted murder of a police officer eight months ago, Algiers Radio reported. The special court in Oran also sentenced 11 other militants to jail terms ranging from three to 10 years for attempted murder and armed attacks, the radio added. About 400 militants have been sentenced to death since the wave of violence erupted after the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win. The first executions of militants were carried out in January 1993 and a total of 26 have now been executed.

Yemeni activists want to visit jails

SANAA (R) — Hundreds of human rights campaigners, alarmed by reports of torture and unlawful arrest during Yemen's political crisis, plan to inspect more than 300 congested prisons, a leading activist said on Sunday. Judge Hammoud Al Hattar, chairman of the Yemen Human Rights Organisation, a non-governmental body, said authorities in the former North Yemen agreed to the inspection.

Shaath says accord with Israel is sealed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said during talks with Israel on Sunday that barring any last-minute hitches, the two sides could wrap up negotiations on implementation of their self-rule deal in two weeks at most.

"Barring any major catastrophe... I think the agreement is sealed. It is now definitely irreversible," he told reporters during a break in talks in Cairo with the Israelis.

"I don't know about any sticking points. There are 20 or 30 things left to do but I don't see any of them to be sticky."

"If there are no more serious crimes committed against our people in the occupied territories, I think really we do not need more than two weeks," Dr. Shaath said.

"Since the two weeks carry us beyond April 13 we will try to do our best to cut that short to finish on the 13th or to finish the major portions by the 13th," he added.

April 13 was the deadline set last September for Israeli troops to complete their withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho — the first step towards Palestinian self-rule in territory occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

The chief of Israel's delegation to Sunday's talks, Major-General Uri Dayan, also said negotiators were pushing for an agreement as quickly as possible.

The Israeli-PLO negotiations started in October but dragged on past a Dec. 13 deadline for starting Israel's withdrawal. After the Feb. 25 massacre in Hebron, the PLO demanded a security plan for the West Bank city before returning to the talks.

Settlers felt abandoned by the government, said Mr. Katsover.

"Such an atmosphere is one that can push Jews to desperate, hasty and irrational acts because of the feeling of a lack of proper government backing against growing terrorism," Mr. Katsover told the five judge commission.

"When Jews are stoned without end there will always be one nutcase or desperado who will get up and do the unacceptable," he warned, adding that he had handed the army a list of settlers he thought may be capable of carrying out such an act.

"I hope this honourable commission will not lend its hand to a further weakening of the standing of Jews at the Cave of the Patriarchs (Ibrahimi Mosque) and in Hebron. Otherwise, God forbid, there will be a need for another commission (of inquiry)," Mr. Katsover said.

Kiryat Arba settler Baruch Goldstein killed dozens of Palestinian worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque of Feb. 25. He was beaten to death by survivors. The site is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

While the inquiry heard testimony, police announced the capture of anti-Arab leader Baruch Marzel after a three-week hunt (see page 2).

Mr. Katsover, testifying at the massacre inquiry in Jerusalem on Sunday, said Goldstein, Kiryat Arba's doctor and a member of the Jewish burial

That plan was adopted last Thursday, with Israel accepting 160 armed foreign observers in Hebron, the first time it has allowed an international presence in the territories during its 26-year occupation.

Last week's agreement specified advance units of Palestinian police would go to the territories this week, and Dr. Shaath said at least six high-ranking Palestinian officers would enter Monday to assess needs. Several hundred police would begin moving in Thursday or Friday, he said.

PLO sources said Saturday that Israel had agreed to 10,000 Palestinian police, about 1,500 more than it wanted earlier. The police have been training in Egypt and Jordan.

When asked what issues remain to be negotiated, Dr. Shaath said 20 or 30 details were yet to be worked out.

Among major issues he listed water, zoning, the coast guard and airport management along with economic relations being negotiated separately in Paris. In an understatement in the arid Middle East, he said, "water can obviously be a problem."

The issue of freeing Israel's Palestinian prisoners was a matter of "scheduling, not the principle," Dr. Shaath said. But he did not explain what compromise was reached between the PLO's demand for freeing all prisoners and Israel's insistence on keeping in jail those convicted of violent crimes.

Dr. Shaath also did not outline the status of the three problems that have tied up the peace talks from the start: Protection of Jewish settlers, the amount of land Israel will cede in Jericho, and who will guard crossings from the Palestinian areas to Jordan and

Egypt.

Dr. Shaath made the comments as PLO and Israel negotiators began talks on moving several hundred Palestinian police into Gaza and the West Bank town even before Israeli soldiers pull out.

In agreeing last Thursday to reopen peace negotiations for the first time since February's Hebron massacre, Israel and PLO pledged to accelerate the talks on implementing their Sept. 13 accord on Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Shaath said "very few political problems" remain and negotiators were trying to tie down details to get Israeli troops out of the territories and send in Palestinian police to provide security.

Earlier on Sunday, another senior PLO official in Cairo sounded a note of caution saying the Israelis did not seem to share the PLO's sense of urgency about an agreement.

Dr. Shaath said the negotiators needed the two weeks because of the paper work, rather than because of political disputes.

"I think the time spent will not be tied to any political considerations. It is practically and simply tied to what is needed to get the troops in and the Israelis out," he said.

Danish, Norwegian and Italian representatives were expected in Cairo later on Sunday to make separate preparations for the unprecedented foreign observer force to reassure the people of Hebron.

Dr. Shaath said the foreign observers would go to Hebron within five days at the most. Norwegian foreign ministry official Terje Larsen will go to the town on Monday to rent a building to serve as their headquarters, he added.

Israeli police quit Gaza and Jericho

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel closed a jail and started withdrawing from police stations in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Sunday in preparation for the arrival of Palestinian police, but the appearance of moving vans sparked clashes.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with settler leaders to assure them none would be moved, while the state attorney rejected a lawsuit by settlers for advance warning of any evacuation.

Mr. Rabin promised settlers they would not be forced to leave the West Bank or Gaza Strip during negotiations on the future of the occupied territories.

"There will be no changes until the end of the final status negotiations if at all," the council of Jewish settlers said in a statement on assurances Mr. Rabin gave them during a meeting.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami confirmed the statement. "According to the Oslo agreement, there will be no uprooting of settlements during the interim period," he said.

In violence on Sunday, 10 Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in clashes in Hebron and Gaza. Israeli security sources said the army has ordered its forces to avoid injuring Palestinians and stay out of volatile areas in the Gaza Strip ahead of a troop withdrawal agreed in the September peace deal.



KING RECEIVES YELTSIN MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received at the Royal Court Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who conveyed to him a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin dealing with the Russian role in the Middle East peace process. King Hussein stressed at the meeting Jordan's principled stands on the peace process, calling for enabling the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil and the need to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem. Mr. Ivanov arrived here from Syria after delivering a message from Mr. Yeltsin to President Hafez Al Assad.

49 expellees begin return home today

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff reporter

AMMAN — Forty-nine Palestinian expellees will begin returning to their homes today as part of an agreement drawn up between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), senior PLO officials said yesterday.

"The first batch of 49 Palestinian expellees, given permission by Israel to return to their homes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, will be repatriated as early as Monday," a spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told the Jordan Times.

According to the PLO information office in Tunis Israel had agreed to 32 of 52 names submitted by the PLO as candidates for return and had agreed to permit the return of an additional 17 people who were not on the PLO list.

"Thirty-two were agreed upon from the PLO list and the others are individual applicants to have requested permission to return," said a spokesman from Tunis.

Among the list of 32 are PLO leaders and close aides to Mr. Arafat. Among them are Akram Hanieh, who is Mr. Arafat's advisor on occupied territories and Mohammad

Dahlan, who has directed security affairs in Gaza from his exile in Tunis. Others are prominent members of Fateh who are expected to take up leadership roles in their home towns (see page 10).

Among them are former Fateh student union leader Marwan Barghouti from the Ramallah area, Jihri Al Rajouh from Hebron and Amin Makhoul from Nabulus.

An agreement reached between the PLO and Israel on Thursday allowed for the repatriation of some of nearly 2,000 Palestinians who were expelled by Israel since it occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem in the 1967 war.

Most of the returnees are traditionally political leaders and most of those to be repatriated this week were expelled after charges with intifada-related activities.

"I can't really say how I feel. I can't quite believe it yet," said Tayseer Aroui, member of the Palestine People's Party and advisor to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel. He was exiled in 1989 for intifada-related activities.

Unlike Mr. Aroui, most of those on the list are members

of Fateh faction. Many like Mr. Barghouti and Mr. Hanieh, were sidelined in May of last year when 30 expellees were allowed to return in the first concrete "confidence-building measures" Israel took since the beginning of the Madrid talks in October 1991.

Most of those returning last May were members of PPP, one of the three Palestinian political parties along with Fateh and FIDA still participating in the peace talks.

This time only Mr. Aroui is a PPP member and only one member of FIDA, Jamal Zakout, is on the list.

PLO officials said that the return of all 49 expellees would be complete this week.

The scheduled entry of up to 300 Palestinian policemen from Jordan into Jericho and Gaza from Egypt would be decided today, said a military aide to Mr. Arafat said.

"On Monday all the dates and number of people will be clear. This is being decided in Cairo tonight," he told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The list of 32 people tipped to return to the West Bank and Jerusalem across the King Hussein Bridge are:

Akram Hanieh, Jabri Rajouh, Marwan Barghouti, Amin Makhoul, Samir Seibati, Gbassan Masri, Jamal Shati Al Hindi, Hussam Khader, Khalil Ashoor, Yusef Odeh, Must Al Ghuwelleh, Ibrahim Khadir Ali, Tayseer Aroui, Ahmad Mahmoud Jaber, Adnan Mohammad Dagher, Khalil Abdul Kader Thawabteh, Ali Khalil Alayeh, Mohammad Issa Nofel, Afeef Abdul Thawabteh, Rashid Thawabteh, Abdul Hefeez Abdul Rahman Shadeh, Hosni Zamaareh, Khaled Malyan, Tahseen Henein, Arafat Badr, Samir Kamsiyeh, Sabri Al Baba, Abdul Hamid Rawajdeh, Aref Jalalyqab, Jamal Zakout and Ahmad Nasir.

The following are the 17 people expected to return to the Gaza Strip through Egypt: Mohammad Dablan, Ahmad Al Deek, Jihad Misemim, Abdullah Abu Samahdeh, Friei Al Khairi, Aysheh Ahn Saadeh, Jamal Abu Hahal, Ahmad Abu Mueleeg, Mueen Musalam, Hashem Dahlan, Yusra Al Homos, Nabil Tammous, Riyad Ajour, Mohammad Midweikh, Rizq Al Bayari, Jamal Abul Jadyan and Snhhi Bashir.

between him and Mr. Saleh outside Yemen. Tensions remain high between north and south and little progress has been made in reconciling the two men despite the Amman accord. Mr. Beidh has boycotted Sanaa since July.

"There are obstacles on how to transfer the agreement from paper to reality. One is security. The problem is not a problem of unity but one of context and implementation. We are not disagreeing on unity," he said.

Mr. Beidh held talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Sunday.

Mr. Beidh said stability in Yemen meant stability throughout the Gulf region and welcomed Arab efforts to reconcile north and south.

"We should sit and talk about progress... instead of competing and buying weapons," Mr. Beidh said.

He did not respond to charges by Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress on Saturday that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were financing arms purchases by Mr. Beidh's YSP.

There has been intense speculation among Yemeni political circles that Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh might meet in Oman or in Cairo to try to stop the country breaking up.

Yemen's neighbour Oman has been one of a number of foreign mediators between the two sides during their long-running feud.

"But the expected meeting is not likely to bring about any radical changes in the attitudes of the two men," one Yemeni political source told Reuters.

Another Aqaba-bound vessel denied entry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S.-led naval task force patrolling the Red Sea on Saturday turned back an Aqaba-bound ship carrying animal feed for a Jordanian importer, shipping agents said Sunday.

The Dolphins 1 was turned back amid the countdown to a meeting this week in Washington where American officials are expected to discuss a three-month-old proposal to replace sea-based inspections by the U.S.-led force with onshore checks by a neutral international agency.

His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that Jordan required a satisfactory solution to the siege of Aqaba in order to continue playing a positive role in the peace process.

The increased international attention on the blockade of the Red Sea port has also brought sharp focus on the very legality of the inspections. Businessmen said that they had learnt that the interception of Aqaba-bound vessels was a self-assumed task of the U.S. with no coordination with the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

T. Gargour and Fils, agents of Dolphins 1, said in a letter to the minister of finance that the vessel, which was carrying nearly 4,000 tonnes of soya bean meal — animal feed — was intercepted at the Tiran Straits in the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba on Friday.

After two inspections of the St. Vincent-flagged ship, inspectors aboard the U.S. frigate which intercepted the Dolphins 1 ruled that they did not have access to inspect the lower holds where the Jor-

dan-bound cargo was stowed and therefore could not allow it to proceed to Aqaba.

All the papers related to the consignment were in order and were produced to the inspectors, including details of the consignee, but the inspectors insisted that they should be able to check the haggard cargo, said a spokesman for the agents.

The Dolphins 1, which was running out of fuel, could not stay around in the straits and headed for Port Suez where the cargo could be rearranged to satisfy the inspectors before returning to the Tiran Straits, the agents said.

The process is expected to cost several thousand dollars to the importer.

No official comment was immediately available. But the interception was certain to fuel fears that the Kingdom's repeated complaints over the negative impact of Red Sea inspection methods on its economy have gone unheard except for repeated American promises that they would be looked into.

Meanwhile, Jordanians who met with a visiting U.N. Sanctions Committee official last week said they understood that the committee had nothing to do with the actual inspections and was not kept informed of what is going on in the Red Sea.

"We were amazed to get the distinct impression that the inspections are a self-assumed task of the U.S. and there was little communication, let alone coordination, between the enforcers of the sanctions and the committee," said one of those who met with Jihang Zhang Wan, secretary of the sanctions

(Continued on page 10)

Saleh and Beidh in Salalah, may meet

MUSCAT (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh were in Oman Sunday in a fresh bid to resolve their political feud.

An official source in Oman said Mr. Beidh arrived late on Sunday and would meet Oman's Sultan Qaboos in Salalah, 100 kilometres south of the capital Muscat near the Yemeni border. Mr. Saleh also arrived in Salalah on Sunday.

The presence of the two leaders in Salalah raised the possibility they might meet to try to prevent the break-up of their country.

Mr. Beidh, visiting Abu Dhabi earlier Sunday, ruled out a meeting in the Yemeni capital Sanaa and said talks with President Saleh should be held in a neutral city in Yemen.

Mr. Beidh told a news conference there were no differences in their wish to maintain the 1990 merger of North and South Yemen.

He said lack of security in Yemen's capital Sanaa, formerly the capital of North Yemen, was an obstacle to the accord he and Mr. Saleh signed in Amman on Feb. 20 to keep the merger intact. Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party says at least 150 of its members have been murdered since the merger, many in the capital.

"How can Sanaa be a capital if it is not secure? We can assume any city as a capital, say for five months during which we must implement the accord, and call it temporarily the capital of the document itself," he said.

Mr. Beidh would not comment on intense speculation in Sanaa about a possible meeting

between him and Mr. Saleh outside Yemen. Tensions remain high between north and south and little progress has been made in reconciling the two men despite the Amman accord. Mr. Beidh has boycotted Sanaa since July.

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Yemen's neighbour Oman has been one of a number of foreign mediators between the two sides during their long-running feud.

"But the expected meeting is not likely to bring about any radical changes in the attitudes of the two men," one Yemeni political source told Reuters.

Confidence ebbs in Somalia U.N. force

Banditry and 'technical' reappear in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — Less than a week after American soldiers left, the gates of Mogadishu's port were knocked to the ground, thefts multiplied and Somalis began smuggling weapons past Egyptian sentries.

The remaining U.N. troops have less training, less discipline, poorer equipment and greater problems in fulfilling a less ambitious U.N. mandate. Relief groups have abandoned outlying cities, saying U.N. troops cannot or will not protect them. The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) complained to the commander about difficulties in arranging escorts for food convoys. An American aid worker was kidnapped Thursday in sight of a U.N. checkpoint.

Looters descended on the airport even before American Marines lifted off in their helicopters. The seaport has been overrun by Somalis who breeze past Egyptian sentries with counterfeit passes, weapons and booty.

General Datuk Aboo Samah, the U.N. commander, has 19,000 soldiers, most of them from Third World countries. He said they are fulfilling the new mandate to protect the humanitarian effort and secure the port, airport and U.N. facilities.

Some have been killed or wounded trying to protect aid workers. Still, confidence in their ability to provide that protection is ebbing.

"I am firmly convinced the only security we are going to get is from Somalis who work here," said Ed Johns, the tall, Lanky Texan appointed by the United Nations to run the port. Mr. Johns said he wants to hire Somali guards to provide internal security at the port.

"Thieves have increased manifold since the Americans left," said George Manpili, general manager of the port. Mr. Johns said looters had managed to carry items as large as washing machines and generators past Egyptian military guards. One night 60 tyres went past the sentries unnoticed; another night, 15 high-pressure pumps, he said.

With the gates knocked down, port workers now block the opening at night with a cargo container. Security is better at the airport, but it is still a military camp, not a civilian operation like the seaport, with thousands of workers.

U.N. military officers acknowledge problems, some caused by language or cultural barriers. Pakistani troops, for example, have refused to escort some food convoys on Fridays.

Somalis, stressing Muslim brotherhood with the Egyptians, routinely talk their way past sentries at the port, Mr. Johns said.

When that does not work, they rely on photocopies, counterfeit day passes sell for the equivalent of 20 cents outside the gate.

"The pass system has been compromised," Mr. Johns said. "It is not surprising. You can buy anything from a passport to a college diploma down the road at the Bakara market."

Gen. Mike Nyambya, deputy commander of the United Nations operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), argues that overall security has improved in some ways since the Americans left.

"The shootings have decreased," he said, referring to attacks on sentry posts. Gen. Aboo, the commander, said: "So far, there is no threat to UNOSOM. Only bandits have been shooting at us."

The rules of engagement have changed slightly, Gen. Aboo said, with emphasis on using minimum force.

To illustrate, he said U.N. troops no longer will engage "technicals" — pickup trucks with heavy weapons mounted in the back — unless directly threatened. Previously, technicals were engaged on sight.

In a city where guns already are returning to the streets, some people fear the technicals will become a common threat again.

"There was a great psychological letdown when the Americans left because everyone knew the Americans had their power and the capacity to use that power," Mr. Manpili said.

They also worry about the possible reluctance of the remaining U.N. troops to exercise authority.

A 25-truck WFP convoy with a Moroccan escort was turned away from the southern coastal city of Merca on Thursday because members of one militia claimed rivals were getting an unfair share of the food. After talking with factional leaders, the Moroccans led the convoy back to Mogadishu.

Although the Americans gave a forklift used at the airport to the World Food Programme, the agency cannot get it off the airport grounds. The clan that provided most of the airport workers before the Americans arrived claims, it owns any equipment left behind. Egyptian officers have opened talks on the matter.

Squadron leader Don Thornton, the Canadian airport commander said the Egyptians are only trying to ease tensions. "We have a little obligation to determine if the forklift was here before the Americans arrived or if they brought it in," he said.

Others view such talks as a sign of the Egyptians giving in to extortion.

"They are trying to do what the Pakistanis tried to do before June, what the Italians tried to do," Mr. Johns said. "They are trying to win the hearts and the minds."

After shootings and demonstrations at the port, Egyptians have allowed militiamen of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided's Somalia National Alliance to provide outside security at the gate.

Most port workers come from north Mogadishu, which is controlled by Gen. Aided's rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammad. "Once they (Aided's men) gain control, they can prevent the northerners by force from coming to work," Mr. Manpili said.

Mr. Johns said that, during talks that followed the port violence, the Egyptian commander allowed armed Aided militiamen into the grounds, where no civilian except for U.N. officials had been allowed to carry weapons in 15 months.

"He brought four carloads of SNA gunmen into the seaport," Johns said. "That sent a terrible message to the other Somalis."

Sudan rejects U.S. charges

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan hit back sharply on Sunday at the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, who accused Khartoum of not doing enough to end civil strife in the south of the country.

Ms. Albright criticised the Sudanese government's conduct of the war, as well as Khartoum's human rights record, while visiting Ethiopia after a trip to Sudan last week during which she met President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

She said Khartoum obstructed the delivery of relief assistance to the south, where the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is fighting government forces, and said Sudan risked isolation if it did not improve its human rights record and stopped sponsoring international terrorism.

In response, Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh said the ambassador's comments were completely untrue and were not going to help the dialogue between Sudan and the United States.

The minister told state Radio Omdurman on Sunday that the Sudanese government and people had done all they could to end the conflict in the south through negotiations.

Mr. Abu Saleh charged that it was others who made it difficult to achieve peace because of their support for the rebels.

Mr. Abu Saleh expressed astonishment at Ms. Albright's charges on relief aid.

"As the United States envoy to the United Nations, Ms. Albright should have known that the Sudan government reached two agreements with two U.N. officials in 1992 for the delivery of relief aid to southern Sudan," the minister said.

He added that the aid lifeline that the Sudanese government had permitted to operate was considered a model for other countries in similar situations.

Mr. Abu Saleh said the United Nations itself last year praised Sudan for its role in ensuring the delivery of relief to southern Sudan.

The minister also denounced Ms. Albright for her remarks on Sudan's alleged support for terrorism.

Sudan, he said, had requested proof of its involvement in international terrorism but had received none.

On human rights, Mr. Abu Saleh said Islam, which the Sudanese people followed, called for full respect for human rights and Sudan did not need to be told that by anyone.

Food shortages in western Sudan are forcing people to flee south, a Khartoum newspaper reported on Sunday.

The independent Al Sudani Al Doula reported that people were fleeing the provinces of Sodari, Bara and Nabad in northern Kordofan. Between 25 and 30 people were arriving each day in Al Obeid, capital of northern Kordofan state, it said.

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Syria rejects U.S. drug charges

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Saturday rejected U.S. criticism that it was doing too little to combat the narcotics trade in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the accusation was part of pressure by some elements in the U.S. administration to force Damascus to make concessions in peace talks with Israel.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a report on Friday that Syria should remain on a list of major narcotics-producing or transit countries because it had not done enough to fight the opium trade in the Bekaa Valley.

Some State Department officials had recommended that Syria should be removed from the U.S. list. But some members of Congress and aides to Secretary of State Warren Christopher objected to the move.

The spokesman said Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has an estimated 30,000 troops, had successfully cooperated with the Lebanese authorities in preventing the production and trading of drugs in the Bekaa.

"It has become clear that the aim of putting Syria's name in lists regarding the combat of terrorism or drugs is aimed at pressing it to abandon its just rights, which are approved by U.N. resolutions," the spokesman said.

These resolutions called for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, he said.

Peace negotiations between Syria and Israel, held in the framework of U.S.-led Middle East peace talks, have stalled over the issues of the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and Syria's future ties with the Jewish state.

The spokesman said: "Some elements in the U.S. administration whose positions have several times blocked the peace process... insisted on retaining Syria's name on the (drugs) list despite the recommendation by the concerned authorities at the state department to lift it."

Mr. Clinton and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, meeting in Geneva in January, set up a framework for dealing with bilateral disputes, including Syria's inclusion on a U.S. list of countries alleged to sponsor terrorism.

But a U.S. official said not much progress had been made on resolving problems between the two countries.

President Bill Clinton on Saturday accepted a recommendation from Mr. Christopher that Syria remain on the U.S. list of countries that are involved in the international drug trade.

The 26 nations on the list may not receive U.S. foreign aid or U.S. support for World Bank loans.

Some members of Congress were prepared to denounce any move to grant a waiver to Syria, whose cooperation in Mideast peacemaking efforts is avidly sought by the administration.

Middle Eastern countries that cooperate in U.S. peacemaking generally can count on sizeable U.S. foreign aid as a reward, but Syria would be ineligible even if it made peace with Israel.

Syria also is one of six countries listed by the State Department as a sponsor of terrorism, even though it was praised in 1991 as having played a helpful role in securing the release of American hostages from Lebanon.

While 32.3 per cent viewed the United States as the greatest threat, only 12.3 per cent believed it to be Israel.

Some 40.6 per cent of the respondents believed the post-cold war era created a more dangerous environment, compared to 19.2 per cent who regarded the world to be a safer place.

Polarisation of the world into ethnic groups was polled as the single largest problem, followed by hunger, overpopulation and poverty.

In the UAE, the survey as conducted using a detailed written questionnaire and soliciting written responses from citizens and residents above the age of 18.

The Arabic-English questionnaire was distributed to over 100,000 households from which 6,431 replies were received. The analysis of the opinion in the UAE was based on a sample of 5,411 complete responses.

The UAE population is estimated at 2.8 million of whom the majority are Indian and Pakistani expatriates, with few Arab and Western communities.

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Fugitive Kach leader arrested

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Police on Sunday caught and arrested Baruch Kach, leader of the extremist Kach group outlawed in wake of the Hebron mosque massacre, after he dodged forces for over a month.

Mr. Marzel, successor of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane who founded the movement and was assassinated in New York in 1990, was the last Kach activist still at large. Seven other top activists were arrested and are being held without trial and about 50 were ordered to return their army-issued weapons.

National police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said Mr. Marzel was arrested at 0300 GMT at the home of Yoram Skolnik in the Pnei Hever settlement in the occupied West Bank and would be held without trial under special military regulations for three months.

Pnei Hever is several kilometres from the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba that is adjacent to Hebron, where Mr. Marzel lives with his wife and six children.

While fugitive, the 35-year-old Marzel told the Associated Press in an interview that he had changed hideouts close to 40 times to avoid police.

Last week journalists saw him at a demonstration in Kiryat Arba.

Israel ordered the crackdown of Kach, that advocates expulsion of Arabs from all Israeli-held territory, after Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein killed dozens of Palestinians at a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25. Goldstein was elected as Kach representative to Kiryat Arba's municipal council.

The crackdown has forced the movement to suspend its official activities pending an appeal to the supreme court.

The man who harboured Marzel, Mr. Skolnik, is presently being prosecuted for allegedly shooting and wounding a handcuffed Arab, police sources said. Jewish settlers had suspected the Palestinian intended to attack them.

Mr. Marzel did not resist the arrest, police said.

Israel radio reported that Mr. Marzel, in hiding, had taunted police who were searching for him.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Istanbul hosts movie festival

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Western-style international movie festival opened Saturday in this historic city where a Muslim festival fundamentalist mayor was elected last week. Some of the 154 movies from 37 countries to be shown during the two week 13th Istanbul Motion Pictures Festival are sure to tickle the city's new fundamentalist leaders. In one section of the festival, seven movies, selected for their emphasis on sexual and sentimental experiences of youth, will be shown. Among them is the sensational "Betty Blue" by Jacques Rivette. The festival also includes "Wittgenstein" by Derek Jarman, the British gay-activist director who recently died of AIDS. In addition, the festival boasts several movies from famous directors all over the world such as Krzysztof Kieslowski, Andrzej Wajda, Ettore Scola, Federico Fellini, Woody Allen, Oliver Stone, David Cronenberg, Constantin Costa-Gavras and Francois Truffaut. Since Tayyip Erdogan, the Welfare Party's candidate, won the mayor's job in Istanbul, there have been reports of fundamentalist harassment of women dressed in mini-skirts. Interior Minister Nihat Metase on Saturday has assured the public that the Welfare Party's mayors will face prosecution if they attempt to violate Turkey's secular laws. In local elections last Sunday, the Welfare Party doubled its votes nationwide to 19 per cent from previous elections five years ago.

Norwegian-Japanese line starts

DAMMAM (AP) — Nosa, a Norwegian shipping company, will soon start a roll on, roll off shipping service from the Gulf eastern side of Saudi Arabia under a joint-venture with the Japanese company NYK, the Saudi agents said Saturday. Nosa discontinued a similar service in 1985 because of the then raging Iraq-Iran war. NYK is making its debut in what is commonly called ro-ro trade. Roll on-roll off ships carry containers that are rolled on and off ships on rails. So far six vessels have been deployed for this joint NYK/Nosa service with an average of two ships per month calling on Damman port, said Mehmed Nizami, commercial executive of Barber Lines who are the local agent for the operation. The first vessel under the scheme will start loading in the United States "in about two days," Mr. Nizami told reporters. Presently about nine ro-ro ships call on the Damman port every month and the pie is shared by National Shipping Corp. of Saudi Arabia and Hoegh Lines, which is operating under a contract with General Motors. Out of nine shipping agencies here, the Saudi shipping corporation and Barber Lines are also main handlers of ro-ro type vessels. In April 1993, 13,387 tonnes of ro-ro type cargo was discharged at the Damman port according to official statistics.

European airlines to end price war in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Seven West European airlines have called a truce in a price war for customers flying to Europe under an agreement revealed on Saturday. The agreement, signed on Wednesday and made available to Reuters, says the airlines have undertaken not to offer discounts on most fares for two years starting on April 1. The airlines are Air France, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa and Swissair. The airlines had been offering large discounts to compete for a shrinking market. One of the fares on offer from Air France was for 2,000 pounds (\$300) Cairo-Paris return. The document says the airlines hope that Egyptair, the Egyptian national carrier, will also sign.

Kuwait MPs seek ban on smoking in public

KUWAIT (R) — Smokers who light up in public in Kuwait could soon face a 50 dinar (\$168) fine, the English-language Arab Times reported on Sunday.

The newspaper said parliament's health and labour committee had proposed a ban on smoking in public places and offices.

The committee had been informed by the government that it supported the idea. The newspaper reported Member of Parliament (MP) Ahmad Al Kulaib as saying. The draft law has yet to be debated by parliament.

The draft law would ban smoking in public places like buses and offices. Violators would be fined 50 dinars (\$168).

Kuwaitis have begun to smoke more since Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, studies show. A Kuwait University study of male students aged 19-25 reported 28 per cent of them smoked compared to 21 per cent before Iraq's 1990 invasion.

The government last year banned smoking in hospitals.

Health care for expats

Five Kuwaiti MPs have asked the government to stop charging expatriates for medical services following the death of an Egyptian kidney patient who could not afford dialysis, the Arab Times said.

The opposition-dominated National Assembly is to debate a formal proposal by the MP that the government stop charging for services imposed last year, the Arab Times reported.

"The national assembly likely to pass this proposal as recommendation to the government and we hope the government accepts it," the newspaper quoted one of the MP Adnan Abdul Samad, saying.

Newspapers reported, last month Egyptian Hussein Saeed had died on March because he could no longer afford the 25 dinar (\$84) a session. Kidney patients require several sessions a week.

Saeed worked as a clerk and earned 150 dinars (\$505) a month, the Arab Times said. "We submit this proposal to avoid an expatriate dying because of not having money to pay for the service," the MP proposal reads, the newspaper said.

The Health Ministry March 1993 approved fees for diagnostic services and medical tests on expatriate patients and visitors to Kuwait to save costs and curb health care bad previous been free for all.

Expatriates form just one half of Kuwait's 1.5 million population.

Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.

Apple 550/6

Banana 300/4

Banana (Mukammal) 6

Cabbage 240/1

Cauliflower 220/1

Cucumber 140/1

Cucumbers (large) 260/1

Cucumbers (small) 250/1

Eggplant 300/1

Garlic 300/1

Grape Fruit 1000/6

Green beans 280/1

Lemon 140/1

Marrow (large) 150/1

Marrow (small) 280/1

Mulokhthia 320/1

Orange 350/1

Onion (dry) 300/1

Onion (green) 300/1

Pear 300/1

Pepper (hot) 750/1

Pepper (sweet) 560/1

Potato 500/1

Radish 280/1

Tomato 120/1

Spinach 400/1

String beans 550/1

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 - Le Aventuriers De L'Espace

18:30 - L'Ecole Des Fais

19:30 - News in French

19:15 - Beaumanoir

19:30 - News in Hebrew

20:00 - News in Arabic

21:30 - The Nanny

21:45 - Jordanesque

22:00 - Thirty something

22:30 - News in English

22:30 - Black Power

23:30 - Top Cops

PRAYER TIMES

06:59 - Fajr

16:16 - (Sunrise) Duha

17:59 - Dhuhr

18:12 - 'Asr

19:00 - Maghreb

20:19 - Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth,

Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 601757

Terranova Church Tel. 622346

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

Queen stresses urgency in addressing current world population growth rate

AMMAN — As chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of the Global South at American University in Washington, D.C., Her Majesty Queen Noor addressed the centre's conference on "Population and Economic Growth: Perspectives from the Global South."

The March 30 conference examined the relationship between population growth, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development. It also sought to raise public and media awareness regarding population issues and priorities in the developing countries of the global South.

The conference was organised to provide input for the final preparatory committee meeting which will be held this week in New York and to submit its findings to the International Conference on Population and Development which will be held in Cairo later this year.

Delivering the speech on behalf of Queen Noor was Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the U.S.

In her speech, the Queen emphasised the urgency in addressing the current world population growth rate, estimated to have reached an annual increase of 94 million people.

Such levels are "unprecedented in human history," said Queen Noor, and "this trend is not only economically and environmentally unsustainable, but it is also a certain source of international tension and political strife, for the absolute population increases are accompanied and aggravated by inequitable distribution of the globe's natural and economic resources."

Queen Noor pointed out that over 95 per cent of all population growth in the next decade will occur in the South. This "demographic explosion" has already created "massive unmet needs in housing, health, education services and employment," she said, adding that as a result, there is an urgent need today to "address the population/economy equation from the perspective of the needs of women and men in the South."

After highlighting the multi-dimensional nature of population issues, Queen Noor said that "integrated national development policies that are based on grassroots participation, gender equity, and environmental protection are the most likely to achieve the desired combination of sustainable economic growth and population stabilization."

The Queen referred to the last International Conference on Population and Development which she addressed in

Mexico City in 1984. Reemphasising her Mexico message, she said that the human dimension of the population dilemma must not be ignored.

Queen Noor underlined the importance of "the real people represented by the growth rates, the fertility trends and the mortality statistics."

In Jordan, Queen Noor added, "because of our emphasis on the individual as both the means and the goal of development, we have achieved significant domestic political transformation, economic restructuring and regional realignments in the last five years without suffering any significant tension."

The Queen also emphasised the role of the woman of the family as "the most effective agent of social change." She added that democratic, participatory political systems are also vital to the success of any strategy aimed at achieving sustainable economic and population growth.

In conclusion, the Queen said that the many preparatory meetings "should bring us to the Cairo conference with a realistic consensus on effective strategies for concerted national and regional action to promote sustainable development and to identify better ways of fostering mutually-reinforcing relationships between people, their environments and their economies."

Queen Noor concluded on a positive note saying "the current perception of population growth as a global threat can be transformed into an historic opportunity — if we see the people of the world, including the poor, as an asset and a source of creativity, hard work and problem-solving."

The conference was attended by Elliot Milstein, president of American University, Clovis Maksoud, director of the Center for the Study of the Global South, Nafis Sadik, director of UNFPA (The United Nations Population Fund) as well as other academicians, population experts and representatives of international organisations.

Queen addresses women's conference

Earlier the Queen addressed a women's conference in London in which she also discussed the importance of the role of women in development and of a participatory decision-making process in the political and socio-economic development of countries.

She gave examples of the important and dramatic progress achieved by Middle Eastern women in recent decades and noted that during the last three decades the average female primary school enrol-



ment ratio has doubled from 39 per cent to 78 per cent.

Female literacy has more than doubled in the last two decades, and while in 1950 girls made up less than 25 per cent of primary school students in Jordan, today they account for exactly 50 per cent, she pointed out. The Queen also commended the fact that while in 1950 only a handful of Jordanian women attended university, today 52 per cent of all college and university students in Jordan are women.

Due to these advances in women's education and awareness, the Arab states of the Middle East have achieved among the fastest gains in infant immunization and mortality reduction in the world, she added.

The Queen noted that in Jordan, experience has proven that the "empowerment and participation of women" is an essential key to the development process.

Queen Noor then discussed Jordan's experience with development, based on community participation, and highlighted the advantages of such an approach which differs from the traditional development approach of governments dictating policy from the top down.

She cited numerous examples of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) development projects that have helped some of the poorest communities in Jordan. These projects, the Queen said, have demonstrated that "direct participation and the empowerment of all members of the community — especially women —

through education and training is the single most important factor in human development."

Referring to Jordan as a model to be emulated, Queen Noor said, "we have tried to build on foundations of our social values and traditions (and) to use these traditions that people are familiar and comfortable with as a starting point for developing awareness of their roles, particularly women's role in development and then the community's sense of itself and of what it is capable of doing in an independent, self-reliant way rather than depending on the government to provide all of its needs."

The development of democratic decision-making systems on a community level, said Queen Noor, is part of the larger democratic transformation that is taking place in Jordan and the region; but in our projects, "we have tried to short-cut the time that it usually takes for this kind of political process to percolate down."

The Queen ended her address with a discussion of Jordan's role as a peace-maker in the region and its consistent efforts at promoting a negotiated resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to a spokesperson from her office, Queen Noor has accepted an invitation by the Centre for Development and Population Activities to serve on the Global Committee for the coming Cairo conference. The committee's purpose is to honour women in the field of population and development.

Civil protection experts look into disaster prevention methods

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is obvious that human life is faced daily with dangers because technological advances have increased the chances of hazardous events occurring, said Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad.

Addressing the opening of the Fifth World Conference on Civil Protection Sunday, Mr. Hamad said that civil wars and natural disasters are equally threatening to the world's population.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Hamad thanked the United Nations for considering the current decade as the decade of disaster prevention and for the resultant studies that will aid in training citizens and delineating the responsibilities of national institutions worldwide in this, important field.

The two-day meeting is designed to provide a forum for civil protection professionals to exchange experiences with a view to devising a universally recognised definition of civil protection.

The international meeting, which is organised by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) in cooperation with the Jordanian Civil Defence Department (CDD), brings together representatives of more than 32 countries and 10 specialised international organisations to exchange knowledge regarding civil and environmental protection, and measures to be taken during national disasters.

Sadek Ranadi, secretary general of the ICDO praised Jordan for hosting this meeting, the first of its kind in this part of the world.

"This event would not have been organised, but



Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad (centre) Sunday addresses the opening session of the Fifth World Conference on Civil Protection. Also on the podium are Civil Defence Department Director General Afif Ghoul and Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organisation Sadek Ranadi (right) (Petra photo)

humanitarian responsibility spurred these countries and organisations to participate," Mr. Ranadi said.

The ICDO chief explained that the organisation was established in 1931 as a non-governmental organisation. In 1972 it became an international organisation based in Geneva. The ICDO works in close collaboration with humanitarian organisations, and in 1994 there were 43 countries registered as members in the ICDO.

Lieutenant General Afif Ghoul, director general of the CDD, said it was an honour for Jordan to host this conference to give a chance for participants to study and exchange experiences in the work of protecting people's lives and properties and study international cooperation in this area.

The CDD chief said "our daily life in this era is becoming hazardous, add to it natural and technological disasters, which are affecting development."

The first day's discussions included a paper by Driss Bensari, Director of the National Centre for Coordination of Planning of Scientific and Technical Research in Morocco.

Dr. Bensari reviewed the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas which, he said, are increasing because of over-exploitation, and lead to an increase in flooding, deforestation, erosion and drought.

The demand for relief assistance is likely to increase because of increased vulnerability, he said.

In another session, Bernd Huber, general manager of the Warning and Information

System Division of Hoermann GMBH in Germany, called on local and national authorities and affected communities to adjust their institutional arrangements to implement integrated risk management.

Today the conference will resume its discussion on topics including ambulance management, the role of relief agencies in organising first-aid missions, rebuilding after disasters, civil protection in Senegal, public safety in energy institutes in Jordan, the citizen's role in forest fire prevention, civil protection in Switzerland, and constructing civil protection in Panama.

The conference will conclude this evening with discussions of the working papers and the submission of resolutions and recommendations.

Hit-and-run accident kills child

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An eight-year-old girl was killed and another six-year-old girl was listed in critical condition in two separate hit-and-run accidents Saturday, according to police reports.

Abcer Nayef (8) of Balqa was returning home from school when she was struck by car, a neighbour who witnessed the accident told police.

Another witness gave police a description of the car and the driver.

Police declined to reveal details.

In Ramtha, Ghofran Mohammad (6) was also returning home from school with her schoolmates when she was hit by a trailer driver who fled the scene.

Police received information on the trailer from witnesses to the accident. They said they are searching for the trailer driver.

As of Sunday evening police were still searching for both hit-and-run drivers.

A Public Security Department (PSD) official urged all citizens to report any accidents, specially hit-and-run incidents, and give details that could help lead police to those responsible.

AMO plans to double flower exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year exported 136 tonnes of flowers to Arab and European countries, and the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) plans to double this amount over the next three years by increasing exports to eastern Europe and Arab countries, according to AMO Director Salem Al Lawzi.

Jordan stopped importing flowers in 1985, and the AMO has been encouraging commercial floriculturists and facilitating the marketing of their products abroad, said Dr. Lawzi.

Referring to agricultural exports, Dr. Lawzi said a total of

12,000 tonnes of various products were exported to Arab and European markets in the first quarter of 1994.

He added, that this amount was three times that exported during the same period last year. He attributed the significant increase to the efforts of the newly-formed Society for Exporting Fruits and Vegetables.

Dr. Lawzi said the AMO is planning Jordan's participation in agricultural fairs to be held this year in Lebanon, France and the United Kingdom.

As a rule, the AMO allows exports of all types of agricultural products and permits imports of potatoes, onions, apples and garlic, produce that is currently in short supply, said Dr. Lawzi.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

IN APPRECIATION: Minister of Information Jawad Anani Sunday presents Project Manager of the MED-Media Project with a token gift in appreciation of his efforts in contributing to the success of several training courses for the Jordan News Agency's (Petra) staff. Dr. Anani expressed appreciation of the project's activities which were jointly financed by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Dutch Radio and the European Union (EU). He also emphasised the need to continue cooperation between the MED-Media Project and the ministry. In the ceremony held by Petra to honour Mr. Greene, the project manager outlined the future plans of the project and said he was ready to train more journalists and technicians. (Petra photo)



WHAT'S GOING ON

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- ★ Belgian film entitled "Het Gezin Van Paemel" (The Van Paemel Family) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ French film entitled "Max Et Jeremie" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "A Million Years Before Christ" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 5:00 p.m.

SHAKESPEAREAN DAY

- ★ Lecture in English by Sue Cokyll, senior producer at the BBC, and Pat Friday, Head of English and Theatre Studies at the Stratford-upon-Avon Grammar School for Girls, on "Tragedy in William Shakespeare's Art" to be followed by a show of "Macbeth" at Al Hassan Ben Talal Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 2:00 p.m.
- ★ Shakespearean open day at the British Council, off First Circle at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Second International Stationery Exhibition at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).
- ★ Book exhibition at Amman University.
- ★ Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 678589).
- ★ Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at Aba'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Haseeb and Farouk Hassan at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ "The Amman-Baghdad exhibition" by Artist Ahmad Al Shaikhal at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Isam Naeir at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Aman (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166).
- ★ Computer exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- ★ A one-hour show of a videotaped variety of classical music at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan (12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.).

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Man's Objectives in Life" by Sheikh Dr. Dawood Al Fa'ouri at Samir Al Rifa'i auditorium, University of Jordan at 1:00 p.m.

Under the Royal Patronage
The First Middle Eastern Regional Symposium
Ikebana International - Amman

The Ikebana International - Jordan Chapter, will host the 1st Middle Eastern Regional symposium for flower Arranging — Japanese style **May 7 - 11, 1994.**

The Jordan Chapter has the pleasure to invite you to participate in this exciting event and to benefit from this opportunity. We are honoured to have with us Mr. Senai Ikenobo, Head Master of Ikenobo School in Japan and Mrs. Banti Pereira, Grand Master of Ohara School from Italy, to conduct workshops, hold exhibitions and highlight the symposium with demonstrations.

The Programme:

Sunday May 8

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 Ikenobo School workshop (1)
9:30 a.m.-11:30 Ohara School workshop (2)
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Demonstration Mr. Hashimoto

Monday May 10

12:30 Opening of exhibition followed by luncheon
2:00 -3:30 p.m. Demonstration by Grand Master Mrs. Banti

Tuesday May 11

9:30 -11:30 Ikenobo School workshop (3)
9:30 -11:30 Ohara School workshop (4)
6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Demonstration by Grand Master Mr. Ikenobo

Wed. May 11

9:30 - 11:30 Ikenobo School workshop (5)
9:30 - 11:30 Ohara School workshop (6)

If you wish to participate, choose three workshops and contact us for further information about fees and other details:

Tel. 629443

Tuesday April 5, Wednesday April 6, Thursday April 7.
From 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Priority for early registrations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Unity at right price

INFATUATION with unity has dominated Arab political thinking since the early days of this century. One of the main principles of the Great Arab Revolt that Sherif Hussein of Mecca led against the Turks in 1916 was to unite the whole of Syria with the Hijaz. Jamal Abdul Nasser had built his reputation and won unprecedented popularity in the 1950s and 1960s as a champion of Arab unity. In 1958 he merged his country, Egypt, with Syria. But that merger was short-lived; Syrian Baathist army officers, disgruntled with Egyptian hegemony over Syria, staged a coup in 1961 that ended the union. Iraq and Jordan had their own experience, which is still being studied and researched to this day.

In the mind of many Arabs, unity is the panacea for all our ills. Mainly it would end poverty and put an end to the weakness of the "nation." Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi is the most ardent advocate of Arab unity. In the last 20 years Qadhafi had pacts of union with almost half the members of the Arab League. But all his attempts ended in failure. Most of those who agreed to unite their countries with Libya soon discovered that their goals were simply too distant to be attained.

The latest attempt at Arab unity is that of Yemen. Until 1990, the Yemen was two countries that only shared the name. North Yemen won independence from the Turks in 1918, but has remained a feudal and tribal society until now. South Yemen won independence in 1967 after three centuries of colonial British rule. From 1967 till this point in time the south has been led by sworn Marxists. As such the southern Yemeni society has been influenced by both imperialist and leftist ideologies. In recent years, oil was discovered in commercial quantities in the south. But since successive regimes in the south and the north were next to bankrupt, the elite in both countries opted for unity, since it could end poverty and create a stronger state. But that unity could not withstand its first test, last year's parliamentary elections. The election results seem to have satisfied neither side's elite. And since then the conflict has developed into near war. Now the south accuses the north of massing chemical weapons and the north accuses Arab states — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of arming the south.

So, what is wrong? Arab unity cannot and should not be imposed on the people by anyone. This has been demonstrated many times in Arab history. The lesson should not be missed. It was fortunate that not so much blood was shed when attempts failed. This time it seems that a civil war is going to break out. That should not be allowed to happen under any circumstances. The two Yemens lived apart for centuries; they can afford to wait a few more years until the real conditions for unity mature.

Hopefully, a meeting that looked possible Sunday in Oman between the Yemeni leaders might yet vindicate our hopes that the unity of Yemen would be consolidated rather than undermined.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DESPITE ITS limited benefit to the Palestinians, U.N. Security Council Resolution 904 is considered a good step towards affirming the Palestinian people's rights, Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al-Dustour, said Sunday. The presence of international observers in the occupied city of Hebron in Israel that the West Bank and Gaza are occupied lands by people who require protection by the world community against danger posed to them by the occupation authorities, said the writer. Had all the previous U.N. Security Council resolutions been treated similarly and implemented, justice would have long been established, added the writer. Unlike the previous resolutions, which remained ink on paper, said the writer, this resolution constitutes the first step towards the long promised autonomy rule which is hoped would lead to statehood for the Palestinians. The writer, however, warned the world community against Israel's possible manoeuvres against the observers' status, saying that the Israeli authorities or the settlers could take moves towards ending their presence. He urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to ensure the continued presence of observers and help spread their presence throughout the occupied Arab lands.

SAWT AL Shaab daily Sunday praised France and Japan for their prompt response to Jordan's demand for an end to the siege on the port of Aqaba, stressing that the favourable response reflected the two countries' respect for Jordan's policies and positives stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question. The paper said that the siege has caused so much damage to the national economy, prompting the Jordanian government to raise the problem with the world community to demand an end to injustice. The United States, which plans to send its secretary of state on a tour of the region, ought to realise the fact that the Kingdom would not be in a position to resume the negotiations with Israel at a time when its economy continues to suffer from sanctions, said the paper. The United States should take Jordan's complaint very seriously and act now to end the injustice if it really is concerned with pursuing the peace process, added the paper.

WASHINGTON WATCH

A record number of Arab-Americans running for office in 1994

By Dr. James Zogby

ARAB-AMERICANS have every reason to be proud of their community's presence in the upcoming 1994 elections. Already, a record number of Arab-Americans (51) has announced their candidacies and qualified to run for public office. Among them are candidates for Senate and Congress on the federal level, governor, mayor and city council on the state and local level.

In addition to Congressman Nick Rahall (Democrat, West Virginia) and two other incumbents, at least two other Arab-Americans will be running for Congress this year. One of them, Ray LaHood, a Republican from Illinois, is virtually assured of victory. Having won the Republican primary on March 15, he will face a weak Democratic challenge in his largely Republican district in central Illinois. Less certain is the bid of Brenda Elias, who is running for Congress in New Hampshire.

Two very prominent Arab-Americans, both of whom are Democrats, are involved in gubernatorial races. One is Joe Ganim, a young and dynamic mayor running for governor in Connecticut; the other is Eddie Basba, a popular and successful businessman who is running in Arizona. While it is still early in the election cycle in both states, polls show both candidates doing quite well. Their name recognition is not very high (though both have time and money to overcome that), but what is quite promising about their polling numbers is that both have been high favourable to unfavourable ratios.

The sole Arab-American Senatorial candidate this year is Spencer Abraham, a nationally prominent Republican activist running in the Republican primary in Michigan. Mr. Abraham faces a stiff challenge from the daughter of Michigan's former Republican governor George Romney. Polls show the candidates locked in a very close battle.

All of these major candidates are receiving strong Arab-American support for their efforts, and none has hesitated to claim his/her ethnicity or to appear at Arab-American events.

A more detailed rundown of these selected other Arab-American races appears below:

Nick Joe Rahall, a nine-term Democratic Representative from West Virginia, faces the voters again this year in his state's 3rd Congressional District. Mr. Rahall, is high-ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, and the Public Works and Transportation Committee where he chairs the subcommittee on Surface Transportation. He is proud of his Lebanese heritage and has enthusiastically lent his support to Arab-American empowerment efforts. He has also been a very active supporter of the Clinton administration's legislative initiatives, including votes in favour of the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the president's economic stimulus and budget plans.

Pat Danner, a freshman Democratic Representative from Missouri's 6th Congressional District is in for a challenging race this fall. She has the solid backing of her party, after emerging with an absolute majority in an eight-way primary last year, but because she is only in her first term Grand Old Party (GOP), will try to dislodge her. A member of the Public Works and Small Business Committees, Ms. Danner voted for the Family and Medical Leave Act and the President Bill Clinton's economic stimulus plan but against his budget reconciliation plan which included both new taxes and spending cuts. Ms. Danner is in favour of creating a trust fund for any new tax receipts, which would be used to cut the deficit.

Ray LaHood recently won the Republican nomination for the seat of retiring U.S. Representative and House Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-Ill.). The 18th district is two-thirds Republican and Mr. LaHood won 50 per cent of the Republican vote and 17,000 more votes than the Democratic nominee. Prior to his run for federal office, Mr. LaHood had served as the State Representative in the Illinois General Assembly. He has extensive experience in national politics, first as staff director for Congressman Tom Railsback and most recently as chief of staff for Congressman Michel. Among the central tenets of his campaign are economic development and a dedication to constituent service.

Brenda Elias is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress for New Hampshire's 2nd Congressional District. The district is traditionally Republican, but is now held by two-term Representative Dick Swett. Ms. Elias, the former

Mayor of Franklin, is basing her candidacy on her strong record of fiscal restraint — having achieved budget surpluses in her last three Franklin budgets — combined with a relatively liberal stance on social issues including a strong pro-choice position. She has been endorsed by popular former governor Meldrim Thomson in the primary; and the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee has pledged to heavily back the winner of the Republican primary in the fall election.

Joe Ganim, the mayor of Bridgeport, is a candidate for the Democratic Party's gubernatorial nomination. Mr. Ganim has the strong support of Bridgeport Connecticut's (the second largest city in the state) which reelected him with 80 per cent of the vote last November. Mr. Ganim is the only one of the four candidates in the Democratic primary to have executive experience in government, and will be able to point to his strong record of bringing Bridgeport back from bankruptcy and the dynamic programmes he instituted to deal with a host of social problems. The central tenets of his campaign are fiscal responsibility, including dramatic reductions in the state income and property taxes and cutting state spending; aggressively combatting crime by tightening gun laws and increasing sentences for violent offenders; and emphasising the role of public education.

Eddie Basba, a supermarket magnate in Arizona, is making a bid for the Democratic nomination for governor. A member of the state Board of Regents and an ex-member of the state Board of Education, Mr. Basba is pursuing an outsider strategy, while accentuating his business experience and advocacy for children and education.

"All (major Arab-American) candidates are receiving strong Arab-American support for their efforts, and none has hesitated to claim his/her ethnicity or to appear at Arab-American events."

E. Spencer Abraham is a candidate for the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by Donald Riegle (MI). Previously, Abraham had served as co-chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee and deputy chief of staff for former vice president Dan Quayle. From 1983 to 1991, he was chairman of the Michigan Republican Party. Mr. Abraham has a broad base of support among Michigan Republicans and business leaders, including three-quarters of all county chairs and all the vice-chairs of the Republican State Committee. The foundation of his campaign are fighting tax increases while cutting spending, strong anti-crime initiatives, and overhauling the health care system with targeted reforms and an eye towards a more market driven plan.

The Arab-American community in Michigan has full slate of candidates running for office at the local and state level. A profile of some of more prominent races includes:

Peter Nicolas is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan. A two-term member of the city council, Mr. Nicolas has earned respect for his understanding and knowledge of issues facing the city. Coming as he does from a majority-Republican district, Mr. Nicolas has shown an ability to put together winning coalitions across partisan lines. In his bid for mayor he is building on his solid record as a social liberal as shown by his support for the domestic partnership law and as an advocate for affordable housing; but he has also acquired a reputation for standing up to spending requests that are fiscally irresponsible.

Michael Bouchard, a Republican State Senator from Michigan's 16th district, is running for reelection this year. A small businessman and 12-year veteran police officer who also served as a state representative, Mr. Bouchard bases his reelection bid on his successful tenure in the state senate. He has worked to make the state government more responsive to citizen concerns, and to protect the interest of his district.

Tracey A. Yokich is standing for reelection as state representative from Michigan's 26th district. A Democratic incumbent, Ms. Yokich has been very active on environmental

issues including clean air legislation, and public health issues; and is a primary sponsor of a group of bills known collectively as the Campus Sexual Assault Information Act. Ms. Yokich's outstanding record recently earned her a seat on the Appropriations Committee, where she co-chairs the subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs — a position of great importance to the unusually large veteran population in her district.

A number of other notable races involve the Arab-American community in California, which has the largest Arab-American population of any state in the U.S.; and also the active Arab-American community in Rhode Island. Still others involve powerful Arab-American incumbents, such as speaker of the Tennessee State House of Representatives Jimmy Naifeh and State Assemblywoman Ruth Joseph of Maine. Another involves a first-generation Palestinian-American from just outside Washington, D.C.

Tim Nader, currently the mayor of Chula Vista, is running in a special election to fill a vacant seat in California's 79th Assembly District. A former prosecutor, Mr. Nader is basing much of his campaign on his success as mayor of cleaning up crime and gangs in his city. In addition to his tough stance against gangs and drug dealers, Mr. Nader is an advocate of pushing environmental technology as a means of economic growth, and will be taking his record of fiscal responsibility — be balanced his city's budget three straight years — to Sacramento where, if recent budget deficits are any indication, it is sorely needed.

Eugene Moses is a candidate for the 24th State Senate seat in California, encompassing the cities of Alhambra, Azusa, Balwin Park, El Monte, La Puente, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel. Currently in his sixth term as mayor of Azusa, Mr. Moses is known as the "Dean of Mayors" in the San Gabriel Valley and has built a reputation for fighting for the rights of seniors, veterans and the hard-working taxpayer. His fundamental strengths include the largest volunteer base in the San Gabriel Valley and wide spread support from local officeholders, community leaders and political activists. Mr. Moses is running on a platform of open government and constituent service and promises to continue putting people first as a State Senator.

Jimmy Naifeh, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, is up for reelection again this fall. Mr. Naifeh is a long-time member of the Democratic leadership in the state house, having served three terms as majority leader and two terms as speaker, and has received numerous awards for his successful legislative work. A partial listing of awards he has received for his legislative achievements gives a hint of the impact he has had: Legislator of the Year Award from the Tennessee School Boards Association, the Tennessee District Attorney's General's Conference and the Harry Burns and Good Guys Award from the Women's Political Caucus.

Ruth Joseph is running for election to her 7th term in the Maine House of Representative, District 98. Ms. Joseph is currently the House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and serves on a number of other Joint Standing Committees in the House. She was recently selected to represent the U.S. and Maine State Governments in Japan on issues of health care, elder care and trade. The National Conference of State Legislatures has appointed her to numerous committees involving commerce, health care and economic development. Ms. Joseph has been a long-time champion of education funding, economic development in Maine job creation and affordable comprehensive health care.

Joe Rafidi is running for the Democratic nomination for the 15th Maryland Assembly District. A first generation Palestinian-American, Mr. Rafidi would be the first Arab-American to win a state-level office his campaign succeed. Active in politics for 25 years and a Jimmy Carter delegate to 1976 Democratic Convention, Mr. Rafidi will be one of perhaps eight Democrats (none of whom are incumbents) running for three slots on the November ballot. Mr. Rafidi takes an integrated approach to dealing with the issues of his district, stressing the impact of crime not only on the citizenry, but also on the businesses and education; and hopes to take a more foresighted and proactive approach to issues such as urban planning to the state capital.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute.

It's time Israelis drank their bitter cup

By Emile Habibi

NAZARETH — An old Arab says that Jews celebrate their feasts around gardens, Christians inside kitchens and Muslims around graveyards. This year, at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the Arab residents of the West Bank town of Hebron had a tragic new reason to keep this old tradition.

The lifting of a round-the-clock curfew of a few hours on March 11 was barely enough time for the Arab residents of Hebron to visit the new graves of beloved ones, victims of the massacre at the shrine of Abraham in Hebron on Feb. 25. Since that date, the land has been cloaked with sorrow and shame.

The sorrow of the bereaved families is blended with the shame of all those who refused to anticipate the possibility of such a crime.

Negotiators on all sides in the current peace talks have mainly been interested in whether the Palestinians can peacefully coexist with Israel. No one dared ask whether Israel was capable of peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians.

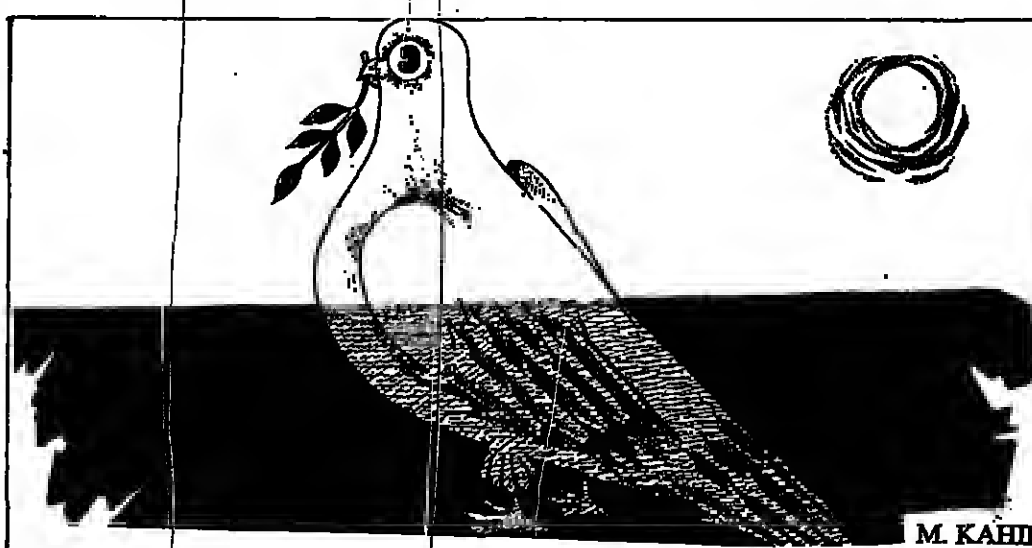
Yet there is no alternative but to believe that the peace process will overcome the Hebron ordeal.

All but the most militant Palestinians recognise that reconciliation with Israel is the only salvation. Our determination to survive was born out of such ordeals.

The 1956 massacre by Israeli border police at Kfar Kasim, an Arab village in Israel, which claimed 49 lives, only strengthened the attachment of Israel's Arabs to their homeland.

As for our Israeli Jewish brothers and sisters, they have also shown that they are here to stay.

If it were not for this mutual recognition between Palestinians and Israelis — of the impossibility of forcing either people from their only home-



land — this historic reconciliation could not be achieved. Since the United Nations partition of 1947, most Palestinians have understood that our national conflict with Israel could not be resolved through one nation annihilating the other, as in centuries past.

The fact is that my people, the Palestinian people, were always the ones who were threatened with being forced to leave. Thus Israel's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which continues to fight for Palestinian self-determination, is a great achievement, and it cannot be altered either by massacres or by extremists on either side.

Yet one cannot go on pretending that nothing has changed after the Hebron massacre. This month Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he did not dare even to imagine "what the reaction of the Jews would be if an Arab madman were to commit a massacre against Jewish worshippers in the shrine of Abraham."

Sober-minded and responsible Israeli politicians cannot allow themselves the luxury of presuming that they will be able to keep every faction under control, even if they have the best and most sophisticated security.

Most Palestinians and Israelis have concluded that we have gone too far in the peace process to turn back, and that we must put our faith in the future. Palestinian leaders who support the peace agreement dared to drink the bitter cup of telling their people that they must pay a very high price for achieving a secure future in their homeland, almost as high as the one the mother was prepared to pay in King Solomon's court: she would have given up her child to save it.

We have the help of courageous and honest Israeli Jewish colleagues, exemplary in their defence of mutual recognition. Yet many Israeli leaders, especially among the politicians, refuse to tell their people that they must reach out to the Palestinians; they have nobody else to rely on in the long run.

In Arabic we have a saying: "Even if your beloved one were made of honey, do not suck it all." There is a limit to the endurance of the Palestinians, an ancient people with a rich legacy, as with any other people. But their endurance is their pledge of their belief in the future.

We, Israelis and Palestinians, are already fated to be born again as Siamese twins. We hope the rest of the world

has already understood that true solidarity with one is contingent on true solidarity with the other. There is no alternative.

Palestinians and Israelis alike have a duty to stand up to our own extremists. Yet the Israeli extremists are the real threat, not only to the peace process but also to the future of Israel itself. That much has been proved by the Hebron massacre. Israel needs to show by its actions that it can live in peace with the Arab World.

It was Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in his report to the Knesset on Baruch Goldstein's massacre at Hebron, who said: "Only God almighty knows the way out of what this damned man has done to us. The norms of peaceful coexistence have been frustrated and we should not underestimate the dangers."

God always knows. What is new is the encouraging beginning of recognition by Israeli leaders and the Israeli people that they can no longer hesitate to drink their own bitter cup.

The writer, a novelist, was awarded the 1990 Jerusalem Medal for Palestinian Literature. This comment is reprinted from The New York Times.

LETTERS

A zero-some show

To the Editor:

THE DIFFERENCE between innovation and imitation, between creativity and copying, is no less evident than the difference between natural and plastic beauty.

More than anything else in the world, such a nuance should be the guidebook of everyone who works in the media, which some people like to identify as the fourth estate.

The above statement or judgement was warranted by the airing on Jordan Television, of the new news show "60 Minutes".

I withheld my comments until now simply because I have heard many remarks on the first show, which was aired on March 25, which I missed. My reaction to those remarks was that either the show would stop, or be modified or upgraded. If neither happened, the only conclusion would be that no one cared enough to interfere one way or the other!

Then I watched the very talked about new show. I was impressed and dismayed at the same time.

I was impressed with the courage behind this show. It certainly was a bold decision to "borrow" the name of a most famous American investigative show, and insert it on the Jordanian screen.

I am wondering what would be the reaction of Mike Wallace or Diane Sawyer if they heard about this Jordanian initiative.

I was equally dismayed to see that the show is an exact copy of an Israeli show aired in Arabic. This type of show could be more educational and entertaining only if it was more original. Still it is a small break from the otherwise monotonous news bulletins which we have to watch everyday.

Finally, for imitation, I give the show 10; for creativity I take 10.

Salim Ayoub
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Human Rights File

Expanding minority rights

By Waleed Sadi

THE HUMAN Rights Committee, the international treaty body entrusted with the mandate of monitoring the application and implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has decided that the right to self-determination is not an individual right that a person may invoke under the optional protocol to the covenant. The 18-member tribunal reached this conclusion when it was articulating its interpretation of Article 27 of the covenant on minority rights in which it concluded that unlike the right of self-determination, which is not justiciable under the protocol, minority rights are rights assigned to individual members of minority groups that can be invoked as basis for seeking a remedy.

This is not to negate to proposition that minority rights are also collective rights in the context of which individuals can seek remedies should any of their cultural, linguistic or religious rights be violated. By the same token, it could be argued that whereas the right to self-determination is a right belonging to "people" as distinguished from a member of any such people, the right of every person belonging to a certain people to exercise his right to vote for example in furtherance of the right of self-determination is also an individual right that can be declared justiciable under the optional protocol of the covenant.

Article 1 of the covenant speaks strictly of peoples when it addresses the subject of self-determination. "All peoples," it stipulates, "have the right to self-determination," by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. On the strength of this reading, the committee has not been able to go as far as finding an individual right in the right to self-determination. Yet this present jurisprudence may change with time as indeed some countries have begun to state a counter position on it. In a recent meeting on women rights, the Dutch representative defended her country's position on legalised prostitution on the basis that women as individuals have a right to determine their future and choice of profession. Granted, not many states would go that far in interpreting the right to self-determination, it is still conceivable that the jurisprudence of the body that interprets the articles of the covenant would soon move in that direction just as it did in seeing both an individual and a collective right when it constructed the full import of Article 27 on minority rights.

Minority rights under the International Human Rights Treaty do not cover political rights but are confined to linguistic, cultural and religious rights. The absence of any reference to political rights means that members of a minority do not enjoy special political rights over and above what the rest of their countrymen enjoy. This construction comes in stark contrast with, Jordan's outlook on minority rights under which minorities are entitled to specific political rights that are distinguishable from the political rights of the majority. Article 27 is quite clear on this point. "In those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language." There is no mention of any political right to have special minority representation in parliament. To be sure there was an attempt to include political rights among the rights that minority members can be entitled to when the covenant was drafted but all in the late seventies such efforts were in vain. Still it is conceivable that in the future, Article 27 could be amended in order to encompass reference to political rights as well.

Till that moment comes members of minorities must be satisfied with what they have now in terms of rights and privileges under Article 27. Meanwhile individuals can be expected also to push for greater recognition of their personal rights under the right to self-determination by insisting on regarding their individual rights to elect their representatives in parliament as also a personal right that complements their collective right to determine their future and course of their political, economic and cultural development.

Eternally true

By Susan Rehner

The writer is a columnist for the Baltimore Sun. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

IN THIS world of shifting sands and shifting values, we need some things that we can count on to be true, always and forever. I am grateful to all the women who have made these truths known to me:

Tell two children to get out of their room before going into church. The boy will either swallow it or drop it off the top of the three-storey parking garage to see what happens. The girl will ask you to hold it.

You have only received a really special gift from your husband if you feel like you ought to insure it. It is not a special gift if it plugs in.

If you put something on the steps to go upstairs, men will walk past it 99 times out of 100. On their 100th trip up the stairs, they will call out to you, complaining that if you keep putting stuff on the steps, someone will fall and get hurt.

If you want your children to put on their shoes for school, you have to start telling them the night before.

When your husband returns from a business trip, he will be yearning for your spaghetti and time with the kids. You will want to eat anything at all that has not been cooked by you and is not shared with children.

When your children begin participating in sports, you will seek for them the kind of coach who is a nurturing adult who can give them quality instruction they need to succeed. But after a while, you will not care who is coaching, so long as your child is on a team with the other kids in the neighbourhood; so you don't have to drive to every practice.

If your children go to bed with their pajamas on backwards, it will snow and schools will be closed. If you absolutely have to get to work, it will snow and schools will be closed. If you don't think you can get through one more snow

day, and if your children are actually getting bored with snow days, it will snow and schools will be closed.

Television sitcoms about families that include a sardonic mother, a zany kind of off-centre husband and smart-mouth kids are not entertainment. It is not diverting or escapist if you live it every day. Shows such as *Dynasty*, where everyone dressed for dinner, where breakfast was served from silver chafing dishes and where the mother rode horses for exercise, are entertaining.

Clearly, only a woman is skilled enough to change a toilet paper roll, because no one else has ever tried to do it. It takes children longer to get out of the house in the morning than it took the U.S. to get out of Vietnam.

If you are attempting to do anything involving tomato sauce, you should plan to change your shirt.

Immediately after you sign your child up for an activity be requested, he will start complaining about having to go.

If you are cooking something new for dinner, your children will not like it. Unless, of course, they do like it. Then they will hate it the next time you make it.

If your child absolutely has to have it for homework, he has left it at school.

As soon as you go into the bathroom, your child will come from miles away with either a serious injury or a burning need to discuss an upcoming social studies project with you.

You can do almost anything — make beds, cook dinner, do the wash, supervise baths — while talking on a cordless phone. But you can't talk to your children while talking on a cordless phone, something they cannot understand.

You will work the phones for weeks to set up a babysitter for a Friday night, then you and your spouse will walk out the door and realise you have no idea where you want to go.

And finally, the truest true fact.

It is easier to do it yourself.

'How will people be warned in 10,000 years that this site is poisonous?'

By Phil Reeves

NEW MEXICO — Most of the stuff earmarked for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in the New Mexico desert is plutonium-contaminated detritus which emits relatively low quantities of radioactivity — gloves, bits of drill, flasks, valves, rags, test-tubes, pipes, sludge, shoes, lab coats, and so on. But some of it is the most threatening material on earth. For this network of tunnelled-out salt corridors, 43 km. east of Carlsbad, is to become, if the U.S. government has its way, home for all the radioactive garbage created by U.S. weapons plants during the cold war. This includes 24,000 soft steel 55-gallon casks containing waste that can kill someone within half an hour of exposure. The material will be radioactive for at least 10,000 years and, in some cases, far longer.

And therein lies the rub. Once the WIPP complex is filled, sometime in the next 50 years, the plant above ground will be vacated and returned to the desert. Its small clump of sand-coloured administration buildings, surrounded by barbed wire, private guards and spotlights, will be removed.

How, then, should the rulers of today warn future generations of the filthy brew that they have buried beneath feet? How will they stop them digging into it?

A response of sorts has come

from the U.S. Congress. As a condition for permitting the site to go ahead, it insisted that a warning sign should be erected when it closes down. This would have to be capable of alerting future generations of the risk of opening up this unwanted tomb. It would be the most momentous "Keep Out" sign in history, a statement so forceful that it would drive people — or any other form of intelligent life — away from the area until AD 12,000.

Yet this ruling raised more questions than it solved. How do you create a sign that is comprehensible over a hundred centuries? Why should anyone assume that it is possible to create a structure that will outlive any previous empire — from Mongolian and Ming to Roman and Russian? It is not as if the meaning of Stonehenge, which is a mere 3,500 years old, is crystal clear to modern man.

And how do you physically go about building something that can survive for so long, without being destroyed by sandstorms, or tumbled by an earthquake, let alone nuclear war? Of the original Seven Wonders of the World, only one still stands — Khufu's pyramid at Giza in Egypt.

Nor is it easy to see how you ensure that any sizeable monument, however forbidding, will not fill gold-diggers or future archaeologists with such curiosity that they start digging underneath it. Over the ages, few historic sites have been

spared intrusion from bounty-hunters, vandals or prying scholars. Worse, the dump lies in an area of south-eastern New Mexico which is dotted with oil and hydrogen wells, and basalt mines. A prospector could happen upon its contents while boring for minerals.

To tackle these issues, the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, the nuclear weapons development and research agency which is overseeing the project for the U.S. Department of Energy, convened a panel of 13 experts. They included anthropologists, materials scientists, astronomers, a psychologist, an architect and a linguist. Their deliberations were closely followed by nuclear regulatory agencies worldwide, including Britain's. It was the first time anyone, anywhere, had explored the issue in such detail.

The result was a set of suggestions that would have brought a blush of pride to the checks of any Dr. Who script-writer. The panel divided into two teams. One offered a number of alternatives. These included: "Landscape of Thorns" — a square km. of randomly-spaced 28m basalt spikes which just out of the ground at different angles; "Menacing Earthworks" — giant earthen berms surrounding a 60m map of the world displaying all the planet's nuclear waste dumps; a "Black Hole" — a huge slab of black concrete that absorbs so much solar heat that it is impossible to approach.

The second team favoured a field of 16m granite obelisks (Washington Monument-style structures that would be large enough not to be buried by sand dunes). Beneath the earth, there would be further warning emblems in case someone made off with the surface monuments, just as they did in the past with Cleopatra's Needles (built in Heliopolis by Thutmose III, now in London and New York) or the Elgin Marbles. There would also be a device to ensure that the site showed up on radar.

"We toyed with the idea of actually burying some treasure 6m down so that anyone digging would think that they had found whatever they were looking for," said Professor Frank Drake, an astrophysicist from the University of California, "but we dismissed that as too kooky. There was a lot of discussion about the morality of the whole thing. At one stage we thought that the site should not be marked at all, but we decided that was unethical."

The panelists put forward proposals for figurative warnings — cartoons showing a stick figure collapsing from the effects of radiation, or a contorted face like Munch's *The Scream*. They also recommended written messages — lengthy explanations of the dump's contents in English, French, Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Spanish and, possibly, the language of the local Mescalero Apache Indians.

These findings have formed the basis for a single report compiled by the Sandia laboratory, which has been passed to the Department of Energy. The final decision about what to erect will take some time. At the moment the WIPP project has been held up in the federal courts by a series of lawsuits over the safety of its operation, filed by environmental groups and the state of New Mexico.

But few doubt that the lorries (on average five a day) of nuclear-poisoned trash will eventually start rumbling across the southern desert, laden with waste destined for the ancient seabed. The U.S. government is unlikely to abandon its newly-dug underworld. They drilled 70m into the ground to build it.

The government has already spent \$1.5bn on the project. Many believe it will be a prototype for future nuclear waste disposal, an example that will be held up to justify the further use of nuclear power. Present estimates suggest an opening date of mid-1998.

The effectiveness of the so-called "Sign of the Ages" to warn the heirs to the planet away from their unwanted inheritance remains in doubt. It is hard to believe that, however, expert the Americans claim to be, they have the slightest idea of how their utterances will be received in 200 years' time, let alone in another epoch.

This week I was invited to go down into the depths of WIPP.

It only took a few minutes to drop in a cage elevator from the bright afternoon to the hot, starkly-lit underworld. Wearing miner's helmets and carrying oxygen masks, our group — a party of foreign correspondents — climbed into souped-up golf carts and drove through a subterranean maze of tunnels and vaults.

As we rattled along through several of the 22 km of saline corridors, our guide, a government scientist called Wendell Wuerth held forth on the capacity of salt to swallow up practically anything you decide to dump in it. Salt deposits drift slowly over the years, he explained, sealing up any cracks, holes, or even giant chambers that anyone might have made.

There was almost no chance, said Wuerth, that anything nasty might seep back into the biosphere. "We are using the best science available," he assured us. "It's just a question of convincing people."

The day after visiting WIPP, I flew back to Los Angeles. My taxi driver at the airport was from Lithuania, an erstwhile resident of the "evil empire" that helped to generate the U.S. nuclear weapons. I asked him to go to Encino, the neighbourhood where I live. "Cine-ma?" he replied. I tried signs and gestures. Only after 15 minutes of garbled conversation did we straighten matters out. What chance would we have had, separated by 10,000 years?

The Independent

Iran seen as increasingly bellicose in Gulf

By Youssef Azmech
Renter

DUBAI — Iran, hurt by a fall in oil prices it blames on Saudi Arabia, is adopting aggressive attitudes that could fuel tensions in the Arab Gulf, diplomats say.

They see uncompromising statements by Iran against Riyadh last week on oil and the Muslim haj, and rejecting negotiations on sovereignty over three islands disputed with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as the latest evidence of a tough, new mood in Tehran.

"They (the Iranians) seem to feel that there is little point left in appeasing Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies," one Western diplomat said.

A strong radio commentary on the islands followed equally forthright attacks on Saudi Arabia for its opposition to oil cuts at weekend OPEC talks and for restricting the number of Iranian pilgrims to this year's annual Muslim haj.

"These statements don't mean an early fist fight. But they do mean choppy waters ahead," the diplomat said.

Others agreed in ruling out armed confrontation at this stage. But they said they were monitoring events closely in a volatile region bristling with the world's most sophisticated conventional weaponry.

"The Iranians are incensed by the Saudi attitude at OPEC," another diplomat said, noting that oil minister Gholamreza Azagadeh has

blamed Riyadh for a 3.5 billion shortfall in Iranian oil revenues last year.

Oil income in the Iranian financial year, which ended on March 21, was 13.5 billion compared with a budgeted 17 billion. Iran was forced by low oil prices to cut its 1994 forecast to 10 billion.

"(The shortfall in Iranian oil revenue last year was serious for a country that) has yet to emerge from serious financial difficulties caused by economic chaos during the early days of the Islamic revolution..."

The diplomats said this was serious indeed for a country dependant on oil for the vast bulk of its foreign earnings. It has yet to emerge from serious financial difficulties caused by economic chaos during the early days of the Islamic revolution and eight years of war with Iraq that ended in 1988.

"They see it as part of a U.S.-inspired conspiracy to weaken the Islamic Republic," the diplomat said.

He said Iranian officials say Saudi Arabia, like Iran, is short of cash and it is in its interest to maximise revenues. Riyadh's attitude must, therefore, have been dictated by U.S. allies who want to punish Iran and overthrow its ruling mullahs, he

said. Iran also resents Saudi Arabia's eight million barrels a day output as an unfair share of OPEC oil output. It says more than a third of that is a windfall gained when Saudi Arabia replaced lost Iraqi and Kuwait exports during the 1990 Gulf crisis.

This reasoning is not accepted by many oil experts. They attribute the Saudi stand to a policy decision to maintain long-term world oil market share against producers inside and outside OPEC who in the past rushed in to replace Saudi oil whenever it agreed to cut output.

The Iranians are indeed hurting but they cannot blame it all on their neighbours. People in the region only hope their anger does not lead to anything stupid," one expert said.

Experts say Iran's cash-flow problem is due to a combination of domestic policy failures and a weak oil market sceptical of OPEC's ability to hold the line on prices and production.

But its neighbours do not feel any urge to help it out. If lost goodwill in the region when it upset the status quo by flexing its military muscle in 1992 on the island of Abu Musa, which it shared with the UAE, provoking Abu Dhabi to revive its claim to two other islands seized by Iran in 1971.

Tehran also pushed Saudi Arabia to strictly implement a quota on Iranian pilgrims after its defiance last year of a ban on political rallies at the haj, they said.

Iran has complained bitterly it has been asked to limit the number of pilgrims this year to below 60,000 under a quota system meant to ease congestion in Mecca and Medina while work is underway to expand facilities at Muslim holy cities.

The diplomats said Saudi Arabia had unofficially allowed Iran to send double its quota of pilgrims over the past three years as a goodwill gesture after relations were restored in 1991. This was meant to make room for Iranian pilgrims who were unable to perform the haj in the previous three years when relations were cut and Iran boycotted the annual event.

After the Iranian defiance of the ban on political meetings last year, Riyadh was insisting on strict observance of the quota and has made clear it would not consider Iran's proposal to send 120,000 pilgrims to this year's haj in May, they added.

Electricity from wind energy ever cheaper

HAMBURG — One thousand wind power plants with a total output of 110 megawatts have been installed in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1989 within the framework of a Research Ministry promotion programme. Thereby the electricity requirements of about 70,000 households could be met, according to the ministry. A good scientific start-point for this area of renewable energy has been created with promotion funds of \$137 million.


The year 1993 was the year of wind energy. The market for this clean and renewable source of energy is in a strong upswing. According to the German Wind Energy Institute (DWEI), the German wind energy store in 1993 was increased by a total of about 100 megawatts rated power (1992: 70 megawatts). The reason for the rise of wind power — alongside the promotion programmes of the German government, as well as the guaranteed purchase price of nine cents per kilowatt/hour through the energy supply companies which followed the Electricity Input Law of 1991 — is the clear trend to enlarge plants from 500 kilowatt rated power which today are being produced in series by several

manufacturers. Experts assume that in two years at the latest windmills with a rated power of one megawatt and more will be offered as standard.

The move to large sizes has continuously increased the profitability of the windmills. Today, in windy areas which are usually on the coast, they can produce electricity at a price which is barely more expensive than energy from conventional power plants. German engineers expect that in five to seven years at the latest wind power plants at these locations will be successfully "commercially operated" without state support.

It is also important for long-term market success that the plants can assert themselves not only in Germany but also on the world market. Here the customary plants are seen as proven, reliable technology. This reputation of the high-tech windmills — which is promoted especially by the business with the developing countries and also the East European states that are greatly interested in wind energy — has been deserved many times.

Inter Nations




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Many Americans feel economy secure amid Wall Street slump

NEW YORK (R) — Thirty seven per cent of Americans polled about the U.S. economy think that despite last week's decline in the stock market, the economy is improving while 26 per cent said it was getting worse, according to a Newsweek poll released Saturday.

The poll, published in the issue of the magazine which goes on sale Monday, also said an additional 34 per cent thought the economy is staying about the same and three per cent did not know.

The Dow Jones industrial average slumped sharply last week as near panic selling

against the background of soaring interest rates triggered five straight sessions of losses before the index regained its footing slightly Thursday.

At the end of the holiday-shortened week, the index was at 3,635.95, down 139.07 points on the week. More significantly, the Dow was off 342.41 points from its record high of 3,978.36 set Jan. 31, and stocks may have suffered their worst battering in years, according to analysts.

The market's psychology soured after the Federal Reserve (Fed), the U.S. central bank, raised interest rates Feb.

4, the first time in five years, to cool inflationary pressures in the improving economy.

The straw that broke the camel's back was the Fed's second rise in rates nearly seven weeks later, fuelling concern that the central bank's rate hikes would continue unchecked, market experts said.

Asked if they agreed with the Fed's interest rate hike, 34 per cent of those polled said rates had gone up the right amount but 37 per cent thought the increase was too high.

Forty-seven per cent of Americans believed the decline in the U.S. stock market was a serious or somewhat

serious problem for the country, while 38 per cent thought it not a serious problem at all. Five per cent were not aware of a fall in stocks and 10 per cent did not have an opinion.

A majority of people polled, 53 per cent, said they were not likely to change their personal spending habits and 61 per cent said they would not sell or buy stocks at the moment.

The poll, carried out by Princeton Survey Research Associates, interviewed 753 adults by telephone March 31 and April 1. The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points.

China loss of U.S. MFN trade status could be disaster, study

WASHINGTON (R) — Any White House move to strip China of its preferential U.S. trading status due to human rights concerns could have "disastrous" consequences for both nations, a World Bank study has warned.

The report warned that Chinese exports to the United States could be cut by 42 per cent to 90 per cent if President Clinton decided not to renew most favoured nation trading status for China in June.

American consumers also could pay \$14 billion a year more for costlier substitutes for Chinese products or to cover

the higher tariffs that would be imposed on Chinese goods.

"In actuality, the impact of most favoured nation (MFN) loss is likely to be closer to the lower bound, but even that is a substantial dislocation of trade," said Rajiv Lall, senior economist in the World Bank China Department and main author of the report.

The report warned that the impact of any MFN loss could range "from the dramatic to the disastrous," such as halving or eliminating Chinese clothing exports to the United States. It also called on China to liberalise trade policies by cutting

tariffs or removing remaining export controls.

Mr. Clinton last year demanded overall significant progress in China's human rights policies as a condition of renewing favourable trade benefits after June 3, 1994.

Increasingly the administration, U.S. businesses and members of Congress have grown fearful China might not meet the criteria, forcing revocation of MFN, a move seen as potentially disastrous for U.S. business and U.S. relations with Beijing and the rest of Asia.

Kuwaitis owing \$3b miss debt deadline

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis owing \$3.0 billion have missed a deadline for taking part in a government plan to settle a \$19 billion debt problem, Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said in remarks published Sunday.

A law regulating settlement of the debt might have to be changed to facilitate collection of money from the 3,500 debtors who failed to declare repayment plans by a Thursday midnight deadline, Sheikh Rodhan was reported as saying by Al Watan newspaper.

The debtors, who owe 900 million dinars (\$3.0 billion) and probably include companies as well as individuals, face the threat of bankruptcy because their debts immediately fall due plus 3-1/2 years worth of interest.

Experts say bankruptcies are not inevitable because the law gives the government, which owns the debt, discretion to take whatever action it thinks best to recover its money.

The total 5.7 billion dinars (\$19 billion) in debt, equivalent to 90 per cent of gross domestic product, derives from the sudden 1982 slump of an unofficial stock exchange and from commercial losses worsened by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

Sheikh Rodhan said about 6,000 debtors owing 5.5 billion dinars (\$18.5 billion) had met the deadline while 3,500 debtors had missed it.

"Most of them are small debtors, (therefore) the government sees a need for some modifications to that law to ease its application and the collection of debts," he added.

The authorities assigned to execute the law were studying the handicaps that restrain its application. It was too early to analyse why the 3,500 did not respond to the law, the newspaper reported him as saying.

There was no immediate explanation for the difference between the 5.7 billion dinar debt, total given by most authorities and the 6.4 billion dinar (\$21.5 billion) that the figures given by Sheikh Rodhan add up to.

Figures for the debt have varied — parliament's finance committee last year put it at 5.9 billion (\$19.8 billion).

One expert said the 6.4 billion dinars appeared to be a calculation of the gross debt.

Iran close to foreign oil and gas deals

GENEVA (R) — Iran, desperately short of foreign exchange, says it is negotiating with foreign companies to develop its offshore gas and oil fields and may be able to award contracts soon.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters that negotiations had proceeded well. The deals would help expand Iran's hydrocarbon capacity and, in the case of gas, enable it to boost revenues outside OPEC control.

He also denied suggestions made by some in the oil industry that Iran was having difficulty producing fully to its 3.6 million barrel per day quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"There is no problem of production," he told a news conference.

"Maybe it is necessary that once again I invite some reporters to come and see that there is no problem, and maybe for testing when the reporters are there one day we can increase our production to 4.2 million barrels per day (b/d)."

He said Iran's sustainable capacity was currently 4.2 million b/d and he hoped, though there had been some delays, to raise that to 4.5 million b/d during 1994.

To develop its offshore reserves it has turned to foreign companies, which would operate under production sharing agreements but under service agreements that would pay them in kind for a limited number of years for developing fields.

Negotiations appeared the

most advanced for the development of the enormous North Pars gas field.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Iran was close to finalising a contract with the Royal Dutch/Shell Group to develop the field. Shell had been commissioned in mid-1993 to undertake a six-month study on it.

An Iranian aide said Shell officials had met Mr. Aqazadeh in Geneva.

"Our negotiations are going very well. We received the final proposal from Shell and we talked about that, and I hope in the next few months we finalise that," Mr. Aqazadeh said.

He also said Iran has received two proposals from Conoco and Total S.A. to develop the offshore Sirt field and he hoped these could be finalised in the near future.

Iranian officials said this was to produce oil.

Iran was also in discussions for a third project, the South Pars gas field, after it cancelled a contract with Italy's TPL since the Italians did not finance the project, he said.

It hoped to conclude agreements for this soon, with other companies, he said.

Iran is very keen to develop its enormous gas reserves — to reinject into oilfields to maintain pressure, to help substitute in the domestic economy for kerosene and gas oil, and eventually to export.

But it is very short of cash and its ability to embark on new oil and gas projects will depend to a large extent on the ability to win external finance.

Bonn sees no de-industrialisation in east Germany

BONN (R) — Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt has rejected suggestions that former communist east Germany faced long-term de-industrialisation and said the region's small and medium-sized firms were performing well.

But the country's main industry body, the Federation of German Industry (BDI), immediately challenged his optimism and said the position of smaller companies remained unstable.

Mr. Rexrodt released figures compiled on behalf of his ministry showing that there were around 440,000 private companies in east Germany, employing around three million people. This was nearly half of the region's total workforce.

Small and medium-sized companies, known collectively as the Mittelstand, were the main pillar of the economy, he told a news conference.

"All in all we are not dissatisfied with developments in the east," he said. "To say that a long-term de-industrialisation is taking place in this part of our country, that industry will in the long-term play a disproportionately small role, is not justified by the developments we have observed."

The minister said no one

would deny that traditional industries inherited from the communists had virtually collapsed, with their workforce plunging to around one million from four million.

"But I am firmly convinced that this was a necessary process of adjustment," he said, "I don't deny the collapse, but I interpret what is happening now as a new beginning. The core is there. There are new activities."

Responding to Mr. Rexrodt's comments, the BDI said east German firms still faced major problems, including high wage costs, undercapitalisation and difficulties in finding new markets.

"The situation of the industrial Mittelstand in eastern Germany remains very unstable, especially in sectors which face international competition," it added. "Unfortunately we cannot speak of any noticeable improvement in this situation."

Mr. Rexrodt challenged widespread perceptions that many newly privatised firms were struggling for survival.

"The opposite is the case," he said, citing a new study showing that only four to six per cent of 2,607 companies set up under management buyouts faced the threat of bankruptcy.

Abu Dhabi to buy 20% in Austrian energy sector

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Abu Dhabi government has reached the final stage in negotiating a stake in an Austrian government-owned petrochemical company, Austrian trade officials have said.

The deal between Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) which controls investment abroad by oil-rich Abu Dhabi and OMV, the Austrian company, is the first known oil investment in the West by Abu Dhabi.

"Negotiations are going in a good speed and the deal is likely to be signed in three months," an Austrian trade official has said.

The official, who refused to be named, is a member of an Austrian trade mission to the Gulf that has already visited Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Oman.

The official however said he is not sure of the definite per cent of the shares nor the cost of the deal.

But another official close to the OMV board of directors said the deal is likely to be for acquiring 20 per cent of the company for a cost of \$400 million.

Latvia in bid to develop underground gas storage

DUBAI (R) — The former Soviet republic of Latvia is seeking foreign investment to develop underground storage of natural gas destined for regional markets, an official has said.

Janis Leja, head of the international department at the state-owned Latvijas Gaze, said he held unofficial talks with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority directors and was preparing an investment proposal for them on gas projects.

"We'll send a proposal about our legal and economic potential to show our business prospects," he told Reuters.

"We want to show the world that we exist."

He said currently Latvia was relying on credits from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Russia is to supply Estonia with 900 million cubic metres (31.7 billion cubic feet) and Lithuania 2.7 billion cubic metres (95.3 billion cubic feet) in 1994. Latvijas Gaze President Adrians Davis said Latvia imports 1.5 million cubic metres (52.9 billion cubic feet) of gas annually from Russia.

Mr. Leja said Russia cuts back on gas transmission through the pipeline during the winter from October to April when it relies to an extent on stored gas in Latvia, which is criss-crossed with pipelines to Russia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Latvia held talks with Scan-

dinavian countries last year on further pipeline plans, Mr. Leja said.

He said Latvia wanted to serve as a storage conduit between the gas extracting Nordic countries and Russia, and export markets in western and eastern Europe.

He said to do this, Latvia needed to develop its potential gas repositories — empty limestone and clay spaces underground suitable for holding gas — equip them for injecting and extracting gas and then connect them to the pipeline network.

Mr. Leja said Latvia's only underground gas storage facility at Inčukalna, 35 kilometres northeast of the capital Riga, has a storage capacity of 2.3 billion cubic metres (81.2 billion cubic feet) of gas.

"With the other discoveries, we can supply Poland, Belarusia and the three Baltic states," he said.

He was referring to underground repositories which could be developed near Inčukalna and have a combined capacity of 6.8 billion cubic metres (240 billion cubic feet).

A group near the border with Lithuania has a combined capacity of 19 billion cubic metres (670 billion cubic feet). A third group near the Baltic Sea had the potential to hold 36 billion cubic metres (1,271 billion cubic feet), he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 4, 1994

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make sure you have your activities well organized for the week today or time will slip away from you and you won't have time to develop those creative ideas that need expression. Keep promises.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Listen to the viewpoints of associates today and find out where you stand with them. Use your reasoning powers wisely and you will get ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Add finishing touches to special tasks and gain the rights benefits from them. Come to a better understanding with fellow associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more precise in your tasks today and gain the benefits. Make plans for having increased harmony at home with your mate and loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Start the new work week on the right note by being more cooperative with others. Strive to be more successful around higher-ups.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to be more confident and gain their goodwill. Find better ways of enjoying yourself during spare time and you will be very happy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Concentrating on impor-

tant matters early in the day is wise. Talk over a business matter with a financial expert to get the information you desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go after personal aims now and forget the practical for the time being. Be more concerned with the welfare of family members you are fond of.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Handle those behind-the-scenes duties early and then prepare for greater activity in the future. Show that you are practical in all that you do.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go after your most cherished aims in a positive way and gain them. Be sure to complete whatever you have started to show your reorganized.

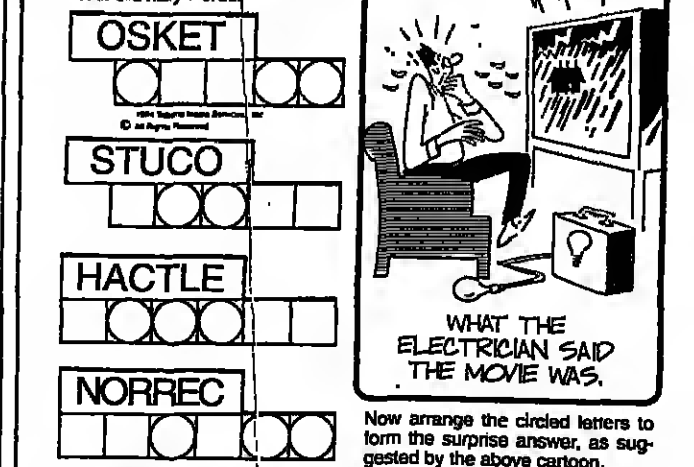
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Civic affairs break open now, giving you a chance to show your ability. Maintain poise at all times today to show you have confidence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to new ideas and viewpoints of associates and you can profit from them. Be more optimistic about the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Add an artistic touch to any task you are doing now and get more benefits from it. Show increased loyalty to family members you are fond of.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

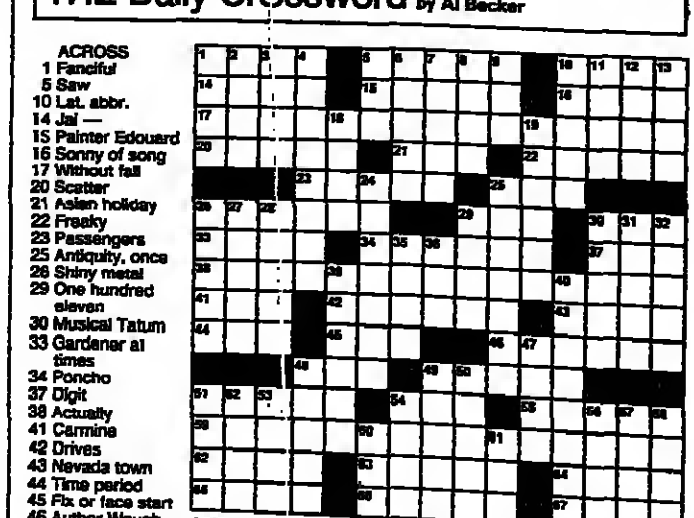


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEMON PUTTY HELIUM SIZZLE
Answer: He never fought with his wife because she knew how to — DISH IT OUT

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

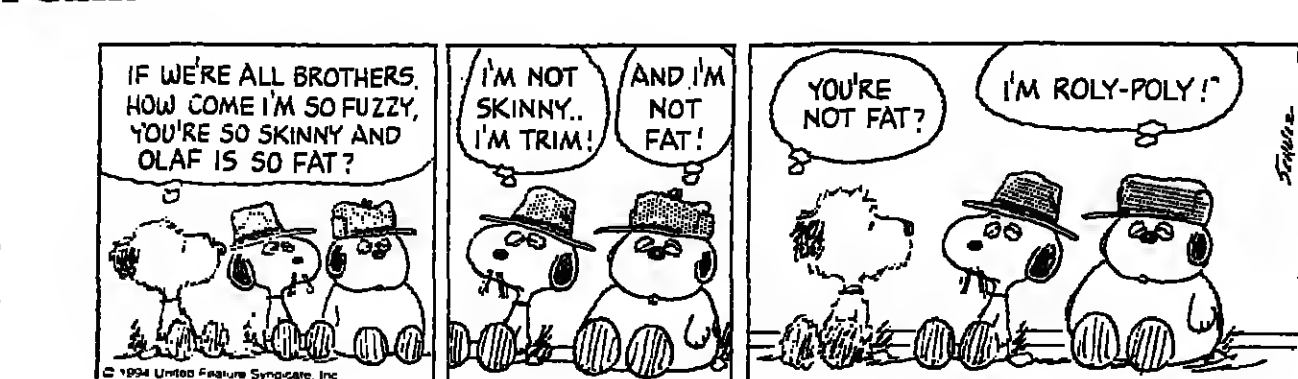


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Across
1. Famous
5. Hero
10. Lat. abbr.
14. Jail
15. Painter Edouard
16. Score of song
17. Without
20. Scatter
21. Asian holiday
22. Far
23. Passengers
24. Ambiguity, once
25. Stray meal
29. One hundred eleven
30. Musical Tatum
33. Gardener at times
34. Porch
37. Digit
38. Accuracy
41. Carmine
42. Drives
43. Nevada town
44. Time period
45. Fix or face start
46. Author Waugh
48. Shade
49. Swiss city
51. Of a region
54. Hero
55. Heroes
59. Confidentially
61. Panacea
62. Legal claims
63. Equipment
65. Lit out
66. Tool
67. In one's right mind

Down
1. Thrushes
2. Thanks
3. Highway
4. Distinct
5. "I — Camera"
6. The inferno
7. Ultra range
8. Laudable feat, old style
9. DVE
10. Receded
11. Comprehensive trip
12. Con
13. Misley
18. Used the pool
19. Kind of pit the
24.aving back to the original
25. Shows up
26. Best variety
27. Bible book
28. Prepared
29. Singer Vikki
30. In any event
31. Sashone rolls
32. Western range
33. Kitchen end
35. Vintage car
39. Viol
40. Serments
41. All out
42. Hammed and
43. Customer
45. get her poor dog
51. Basics
52. Edist again
53. To be in
54. Cyt
56. Concert halls
57. Fed
58. Waterless
59. Overhead train
61. Avail

Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



Syrian, Chinese businessmen agree to joint ventures

the captain, Syria's ministry of tourism will provide 25 per cent, 10 per cent would be offered to Syrian businessmen and the rest to the public.

Club about rescheduling part of Algeria's foreign debt of about \$26 billion would begin during the second half of April.

He said Japan's nnemployment rate remained well below the 6.5 per cent in the United States and 11.1 per cent in Canada in February, though it would be somewhat higher if calculated by U.S. methods, which exclude people in military service from those listed as employed.

French Franc	5.7050	5.7943	11.541%
Japanese Yen	104.85	103.68	1.13 %

USD Per STG

Fresh killings push S. Africa's Easter death toll to 40

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — Attackers stabbed or hacked to death nine people, including a five-month-old baby, in a house in South Africa's tattered Natal-Kwazulu region taking the Easter death toll there to at least 40, police said.

The victims, supporters of the African National Congress (ANC), were among 19 people killed overnight in various incidents in the region, police added. They were butchered in their home in Port Shepstone, south of Durban.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) said hundreds more troops arrived in the region Sunday to enforce a state of emergency aimed at quelling the violence ahead of the country's first all-race elections on April 26-28.

Police said the death toll in Natal-Kwazulu now stood at 40 since President F.W. de Klerk declared the emergency Thursday — the eve of the Easter weekend — to enable people in the region to vote in the election.

They said a five-month-old baby was among the victims of the Port Shepstone killing Saturday night. The attackers were reported to have identified themselves as police officers.

Most of the other overnight victims were not dead in separate incidents in Eshowe, in northern Natal, and Inanda township on Durban's northern outskirts.

The SADF said two companies of up to 150 men each were deployed Sunday in Natal, taking to 450 the reinforcements sent in since the state of emergency came into force. A total of 1,200 troops are now deployed.

"The extra men are now all deployed," SADF Natal Command spokesman Colonel Frans Verhulst told Reuters. He said no more new reinforcements were expected for the time being.

Violence monitors said the number of killings had fallen dramatically in townships around Durban before and after the state of emergency was announced but the carnage was spreading to isolated areas in the midlands and northern coast.

"It's too early to judge the effect of the state of emergency," said one violence monitor. "It could make things better in some areas and worse in others."

The region, traditional home of the country's 8.5 million Zulus, is the main battlefield between the African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party. Some 10,000 have died in political unrest there over the past decade.

Col. Verhulst said with close coordination with South African Police, there was an adequate number of security forces on hand — but hundreds more men were ready to move

in if the situation deteriorated.

Col. Verhulst also said large quantities of weapons — mainly AK-47 assault rifles — were continuing to enter Natal province and the adjoining Kwazulu homeland.

The state of emergency was declared to ensure the country's first all-race elections could be held in the area. Violence has risen markedly with the approach of the poll, which Inkatha is boycotting and the ANC is widely expected to win.

Controversy is growing over the role of the Kwazulu police, which many political analysts expect to remain loyal to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who is also Kwazulu chief minister.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela said Thursday the homeland police would be confined to barracks under the state of emergency. Col. Verhulst said they would continue normal activities until their role and the chain of command were defined.

Several ANC offices have been attacked over the past week — including in Durban, Port Shepstone and Umlazi. On Saturday the movement urged authorities to ensure the violence ended.

"The ANC urges all the authorities, including the Transitional Executive Council, to pay urgent attention to these concerns and to ensure the effective execution of the state

of emergency so that lives can be saved and peace returned to Natal," an ANC statement said.

Mr. Buthelezi has rejected the state of emergency, saying sending in South African troops was tantamount to an invasion and he could not be held responsible for the anger of Zulus who want a sovereign state.

But he has expressed willingness to attend a peace summit with his nephew Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk this week.

Violence monitors expect a bloodbath if the summit fails.

An opinion poll conducted in three of South Africa's nine regions early in March showed that President De Klerk's National Party (NP) had gained support in the last four months while backing for the ANC of Mr. Mandela had slipped.

The poll in the Sunday Times, conducted in South Africa's most densely populated regions, supported a nationwide survey last week which showed the ANC could expect to gain at least 59 per cent of the votes — less than the two-thirds majority pollsters had previously predicted.

A two-thirds majority would allow the ANC and its Communist allies to re-write the interim constitution by themselves.



Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress (ANC), greets enthusiastic Muslim supporters in Cape Town during the tricontinental Congress (ANC). (AFP photo)

Gorazde holds out against Serb attack

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces pressed their assault on Gorazde Sunday but the U.N. commander in Bosnia doubted they would be able to take the besieged Muslim enclave.

In northern Bosnia, the United Nations said the death toll in the latest Serb "ethnic cleansing campaign" had risen to 20.

U.N. officials said shells landing near a refugee camp in the Gorazde pocket in eastern Bosnia Saturday afternoon killed one civilian and wounded two.

Serb and Muslim media reported fresh fighting Sunday, the sixth day of the latest Serb assault on the enclave where

65,000 people are trapped.

U.N. military spokesman Eric Chaperon said in Sarajevo that Serb artillery fire struck Gorazde town while artillery and infantry clashes raged along front lines around the enclave.

The spokesman there were no signs that the Serbs had gained any significant ground in the assault launched on March 29.

The commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, said Bosnian Serb forces appeared incapable of taking Gorazde despite the new assault.

"What is happening in Gorazde is clearly important

and something which worries us but I don't think one should overstate the strategic consequences of what's happening," Gen. Rose told reporters Saturday night.

"There is limited (military) activity there in terms of opening routes and redefining defensive positions. But I cannot believe either side is going to make any major strategic changes to the area."

U.N. sources described the latest Serb pounding of Gorazde as one of a series of spasmodic attacks without any strategic purpose to buy time in the face of diplomatic pressure to make them join a peace accord between their Croat and Muslim foes.

'Junk' statue disappears

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Art, like junk, is often in the eyes of the beholder. That's exactly what worries sculptor William Wareham, whose 800-pound (360-kilo) sculpture made out of junk metal has vanished. The 9-foot (2.7-metre) tall piece, Salmon Run, was built from crushed water beaters and a ship's ladder. It was placed on a steel pedestal outside the offices of Norcal Waste Systems, but disappeared three weeks ago. Wareham fears that garbage collectors may have carted it off for the city's extensive scrap metal recycling programme. "It may have been cut up by now," he said. Norcal workers didn't tell police the statue was missing right away because they mistakenly thought it had been taken away to be cleaned.

On Friday, Wareham offered a \$1,000 reward for the artwork's return in good condition. It has been valued at \$18,000. Another theory is that the statue might have been stolen by an art collector or rival sculptor. Six bolts had to be removed to get it off its pedestal. Police aren't sure it was stolen. "That thing is 9 feet tall and weighs about 800 pounds, so how did the thief lift it off the pedestal?" said Police Inspector Joe Curtin.

Man convicted for beating lamb at fair

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP) — A man who graduated with an animal science degree was convicted of beating a lamb at a livestock auction to make it seem more attractive to judges. Kyle Schwedtfeger was found guilty of cruelty to animals, a misdemeanor, and fined \$1,000. Mr. Schwedtfeger, 22, graduated from Oklahoma State University. He beat the lamb with his hands at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair junior livestock auction last September while the lamb's 16-year-old owner held it by the head. The beating was intended to cause the lamb's body to swell, so it would feel more firm to judges, officials said. "Firmness" is a desirable quality in livestock showing. A videotape taken by a fairgoer and shown at the trial caught part of the beating in the background. The lamb's owner, Mike Herrel, 16, of Miami, Okla., was not charged, but had to forfeit prize money he won. He was banned from competing in the auction for two years. The trial came less than two weeks after an Oklahoma task force was formed to combat the growing problem of cheating among exhibitors in junior livestock shows. Officials with the Tulsa State Fair said pressure to win is pushing people to use methods ranging from steroids to removing lambs' ribs to improve their shape.

Russian troop movement worries NATO

NEW YORK (R) — The Russian military has repositioned forces along its northern and southern flanks as they return from Central Europe, working NATO and U.S. officials who say it exceeds limits to take effect next year under a weapons treaty, the New York Times reported.

In Sunday editions, the newspaper said the deployments, and Moscow's effort to renegotiate the treaty to accommodate them, are emerging as a major irritant in the Defence Department's efforts to forge closer relations with Russia's military.

It said Clinton administration officials say Russia's moves reflect its military's unhappiness with arms control limits negotiated by the Soviet Foreign Ministry during the Gorbachev years and determination to maintain a strong presence in the Caucasus region.

There is still time under the treaty for Russia to reverse its buildup. The limit on forces on its flanks takes effect in November, 1995.

Russia's Defence Ministry has repeatedly proposed revisions of the treaty, which covers conventional arms from the Atlantic to the Urals, the Times report said.

An unnamed administration official was quoted as saying "they profess a commitment to the integrity of the treaties and have shown flexibility offering ideas for change."

"On the other side of the ledger, none of this is acceptable. All the Russian suggestions to date still allow too much on the flank in the eyes of most NATO countries," he said.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, negotiated in 1990 between NATO and the former Warsaw Pact nations, slashed the number of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery pieces and aircraft in Europe.

The accord set a ceiling on the number of ground weapons that can be deployed along NATO's northern and southern flanks, such as Norway and Turkey.

It limited Russia to no more than 580 armoured personnel carriers, 700 tanks and 1,280 artillery pieces in its active units in the Leningrad Military District on its northwestern frontier and the North Caucasus Military District on its southern flank areas.

The exception was that Moscow could keep an unlimited number of armoured personnel carriers on its flanks if they were manned by internal security forces rather than regular army divisions.

U.S. officials say the Russians are reducing overall number of weapons, but seem determined to keep funneling forces into the Caucasus region.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Africans prepare for worst

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anxious South Africans are stocking up on cans and candles, laying in guns and ammunition and checking flights abroad as their first all-race elections approach. "I'm selling more handgun ammunition than ever before," said gun shop manager Peter van Rensburg, adding that sales had increased up to 20 per cent since Monday when 53 people were killed in pre-election violence in Johannesburg. Fears of wider violence and disruption associated with the April 26-28 election have focused on looting, anti-white attacks and possible sabotage of power and water supplies. A significant number of blacks and whites have been buying guns and stocking up on ammunition. One Johannesburg gun store manager told reporters he had no time to talk. "I'm inundated — please," Gun enthusiast Michael Hoy said after a visit to a Johannesburg gun shop Thursday. "It was madness... They couldn't sell guns fast enough." Weapons instructor Roy van Reekum said that in March he trained 86 first-time gun-users, mainly blacks and middle-class whites, ranging from 16 to 68 years old. "I call it the spare wheel mentality. I hope to God I never have to use it. But just in case," he added. Those stockpiling food and fuel for cooking have mainly been white.

American woman abducted in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — An American woman and three Cambodians working for a Christian relief organisation have been abducted by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas in southern Cambodia, a relief official said Sunday. American Melissa Himes and the three Cambodians, employees of the Swiss-based Food for the Hungry relief organisation, have been held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas since Thursday, the official said. The U.S. embassy confirmed the abduction but said it was still not clear if the abductors were from the Maoist guerrilla group. "We think they were abducted by either Khmer Rouge guerrillas or bandits. Whoever it is their interests seem to be pecuniary, not political," an embassy official said. "We have been in touch with the Cambodian authorities at several different levels, including locally in Kampot," he said. Two Cambodian employees of the relief organisation were abducted while digging wells near the town of Chuk, 70 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh last week, the relief official said. Ms. Himes and her driver were seized Thursday when they went to negotiate the release of the two well-diggers.

Falklands probe: British executed PoWs

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A newspaper said Saturday that an Argentine government-appointed War Crimes Commission's report says British soldiers killed or wounded Argentine prisoners during the 1982 Falklands War. The mass Buenos Aires circulation daily Clarin, which said it had access to the yet unreleased document, reported the commission's report also contained charges that British troops had used weapons banned by the Geneva convention on arms. No confirmation was immediately available from the Defence Ministry, which appointed the War Crimes Commission last year after Britain started its own probe. Clarin's story ran on the 12th anniversary of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands, a barren, sparsely populated archipelago, 400 kilometres off the mainland in the South Atlantic Ocean. The Argentines, ordered into the islands by former military President Leopoldo Galtieri, were routed in a 10-week war by a British task force that re-established colonial rule. Argentina, however, still claims sovereignty over the Falklands and other British-ruled South Atlantic islands.

Perry fights Congress on buying reform

WASHINGTON (R) — Mild-mannered Defence Secretary William Perry is in his first fight with Congress, saying it may cripple his effort to cut defence buying costs. The effort may sound esoteric, but Mr. Perry told Congress defence buying and management reforms could save more than \$6 billion, and so help pay for the new U.S. defence strategy of being able to fight two wars at almost the same time. Mr. Perry, who answers the fiercest questioning at congressional hearings in a polite monotone, became feisty this past week in his effort to win Congress's approval of buying reform legislation he wants. He said Congress will likely pass the legislation but said it may tack on "crippling amendments... which limit its effectiveness dramatically." Mr. Perry told a lawyers group the problem is that Congress has approved a complex of requirements on defence work that now add up to a "thousand pages of boilerplate to go with every contract we send out." A defence official said he was referring to special requirements on military contracts such as requirements that all or most U.S. weapons and military hardware be made in America and that parts and goods be transported only on American ships.

Sinn Fein urges Britain to respond to truce

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA's political wing Sinn Fein appeared Sunday to soften its stance on an Anglo-Irish peace pact, hinting it might extend a three-day truce to Britain's response to the gesture.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams urged the British government to use the surprise ceasefire to at least give a sign that it was ready to "clarify" the plan as asked.

He told Britain's Observer newspaper that the significance of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) short pause in its 25-year war to end British rule in Northern Ireland lay in its "potential."

"None of us is interested in four-month suspensions or three-day suspensions or two-year suspensions we are interested in a peaceful Ireland," he was quoted as saying.

U.K. press: Major's days are numbered

LONDON (R) — Embattled Prime Minister John Major received some fresh hammer blows from Britain's Sunday newspapers which said voters wanted him to quit and his days at the top were numbered.

The Sunday Times said in a damning editorial that Mr. Major had proved himself incapable of mounting a credible strategy for a sustained recovery in his political fortunes and he appeared to have a knack for making a bad situation worse.

"Taken together, they suggest his plight is terminal," the editorial said. It said the battle for his successor as Conservative Party leader was already under way ahead of a formal challenge later in the year.

The Observer derided Mr. Major's "weak and floundering leadership" and said he was now seen as "the man who would lose the party the next general election."

The Sunday Telegraph held more bad news for Mr. Major, who earlier launched a vigorous defence of his leadership after a week in which he was battered by criticism from within his own party and open calls for his resignation.

The newspaper published a Gallup poll showing that 65 per cent of British voters wanted him to step down and 68 per cent considered him to be "politically inept."

The poll, conducted last Thursday, said 31 per cent of Conservative voters were among those wanting him to go.

A poll in the Sunday Times said a quarter of Conservative members of parliament thought Mr. Major should quit and 40 per cent believed he would not lead them into the next general election, due by 1997.

Mr. Major, 51, tried Saturday to quash fevered speculation that his job was on the line following a humiliating climb-down over voting rights in an enlarged European Union.

"Politics is a rough trade... sometimes you have to take some rough knocks — that's in the nature of the game. I'm not complaining about that," Mr. Major said after visiting local Conservatives in his Huntingdon constituency north of London.

While Mr. Major made clear he had no intention of resigning in the near future, speculation was rife that some Conservative members of par-

liament would try to oust him later this year.

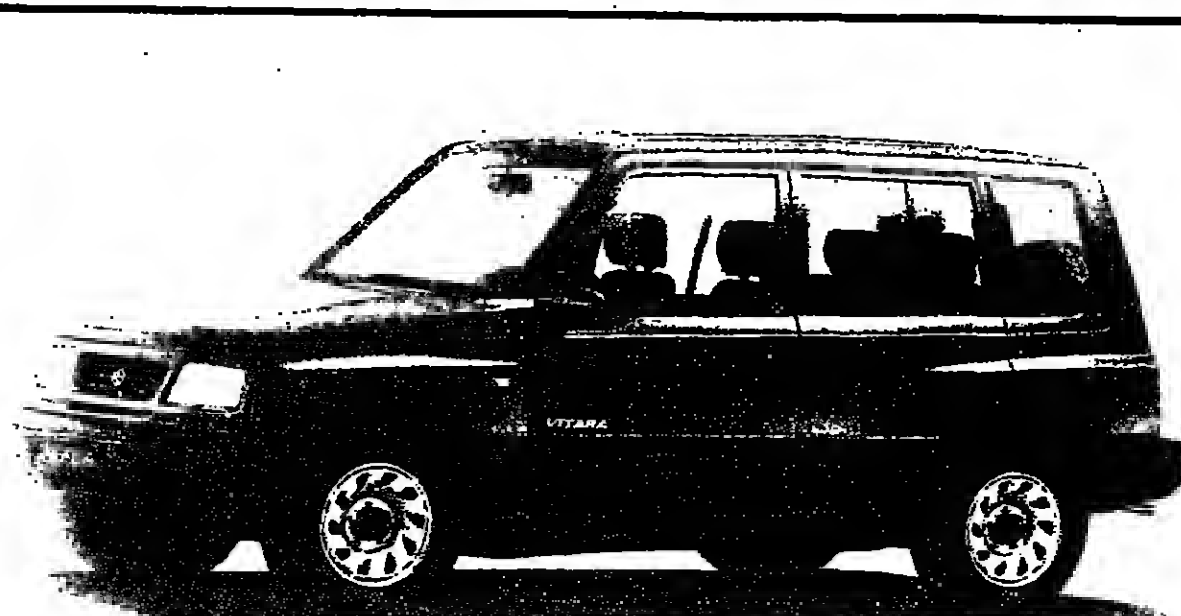
Parliamentary Conservatives routinely re-elect their leader every year. This is usually a formality for a sitting prime minister but the procedure was used in 1990 to challenge and oust Mr. Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher.

The newspapers said Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine had emerged as the front-runner to succeed Mr. Major should there be a challenge, with a slight advantage over Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke.

Both have made clear they would like to replace Mr. Major one day, although neither has openly challenged him.

An NOP poll in the Independent On Sunday suggested that, with Mr. Heseltine as leader, the Conservatives would win 30 per cent of support from voters compared to 26 per cent under Mr. Major.

The Observer said Mr. Heseltine was being pressed to team up with Treasury Chief Secretary Michael Portillo, the "young Turk" of the Conservative right-wing. In a "dream ticket" that would appeal to both right and left of the divided ruling party.



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Martinez, Zvereva to meet in Family Cup final

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Natalia Zvereva of Belarus was trounced in the first set in the semifinals of the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup women's tennis tournament Saturday, but came back to beat Mary Pierce of France 6-3, 6-2.

In the other semifinal, second-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain battled foot blisters and unseeded Iva Majoli of Croatia, who had back problems, for a 6-3, 6-7 (7-3) 6-4 decision.

The 12th-ranked Zvereva, seeded sixth here, takes on the third-ranked Martinez in the final. The two have played six times before and are tied 3-3. "I needed this final. It is good for my ranking," said Martinez, after her two-hour, 41-minute match. "I have a lot of confidence. She is making good results at the moment and I know it is going to be another tough match. I have to just fight and fight and try to win the match."

Zvereva reached the finals here before in 1989, losing to Steffi Graf.

The 13th-ranked Pierce overwhelmed Zvereva in the 38-minute first set. Pierce, seeded seventh, lost only six points on her own serve and only lost 14 points of the 41 played in the opening set.

Zvereva changed her tactics for the final two sets of the two-hour match. She ran Pierce around more and employed the drop shot effectively.

"I should have remembered (to drop shot) in the first set," said Zvereva, who now leads Pierce 2-1 in career meetings. "Sometimes when you are on the court it is hard to remember all the things. So it is good."

Duncan wins Safari Rally

NAIROBI (R) — Ian Duncan comfortably won the Safari Rally Sunday to notch his first world championship victory and also become the first Kenyan to win the event since 1982.

Duncan, partnered in his Toyota by fellow Kenyan Dave Williamson, finished 25 minutes ahead of Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka, notching his best ever Safari result in a Mitsubishi.

Duncan's success extended Toyota's world championship lead over Subaru to 16 points

that I started thinking about it and it worked."

Pierce's left thigh muscle was tight due to the many matches she's played recently — she reached last week's Houston final where she lost in straight sets to Sabine Hack of Germany. She took an injury time-out midway through the third set.

"I played great the first set. But after that I ran out of gas a little bit," Pierce said. "I felt tired and sluggish. I had a tight muscle which made me about two steps slower. She played smart when she saw I wasn't moving that quick."

Pierce appeared to be regrouping for the final set when she broke serve in the opening game. But Pierce lost her serve at 0-40 in the next game and never challenged Zvereva again. Pierce lost her serve in the sixth and eighth games.

The match between Martinez and the 40th-ranked Majoli was characterised by unforced errors. Majoli had 66 and Martinez had 41 which made the contest resemble a battle of attrition.

Both players sought the trainer's attention more than once during the match for their ailments.

On her way to the semifinals, Majoli beat fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, 14-seeded Leila Meskhi of Georgia and fifth-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the United States before falling to Martinez.

After evening the match by winning the second set tie-break, Martinez went ahead 4-1 in the third set, but she had major problems closing out the match.

Seven of the 10 games in the final set were service breaks.

National team heads for Qatar Davis Cup competition

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — It is once again time for the global tennis competition — the Davis Cup — one of the foremost annual athletic events grouping countries from around the world.

This year, Jordan plays its sixth Davis Cup competition when the national team leaves for Qatar April 4-10 to play in the Asia/Oceania Zone group 3 alongside Lebanon, Bahrain, Brunei and Uzbekistan.

Jordan had played on group 2 alongside more experienced Asian teams like Malaysia, Singapore, Iran and Pakistan for the past three years before relegated to group 3 following their loss to Malaysia and Iran in the 1993 competition.

Despite the fact that the Kingdom's national team might be facing less competitive teams this year making viable the possibility of promotion to group 2, Jordan seems to be in a difficult situation since it misses the efforts of former national champion Hani Al Ali and runner-up Imad Abu Hamda.

Last year, Ali had hinted that it would be his last year in competitive tennis, while Abu Hamda seems to be preoccupied with his studies at the school of medicine.

Therefore, the pressure is now on Jordan's young champion Laith Al Azzouni, who will be playing his third Davis Cup. His teammates will be Samir Rifa'i, Laith Al Kurdi and Wadi Kavar.

According to national team coach Youssef Al Oreibi, Azzouni, 16, and Rifa'i, 29, have been regularly practising at the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) courts three times a week for the past two months. However, Kavar and Kurdi, both 19, have only recently joined the national team after their arrival from the U.S. where both attend university.

"Personally, I am not optimistic of the team scoring a satisfactory result this year. However, you have to understand that there has been a turning point in the country's tennis scene," Oreibi told the Jordan Times. "The JTF is now very keen on preparing a big number of young players. Just give them a couple of years and you'll see the result yourself," he asserted, pointing out that there were now at least eight young players who would someday well represent the Kingdom in such competitions.

In past years, Jordan's national team was unable to display its true quality of play as the team mainly depended

on the efforts of Ali and Abu Hamda who would become exhausted in the three-day Davis Cup ties which demand physical fitness and availability of players who would play in doubles singles matches.

"There is no question that we could have secured a good result with Ali and Abu Hamda, but we hope that the players will benefit from our participation this year as we know the Lebanese and Bahraini teams are very good and have more experienced players," said Oreibi.

Unlike other years, the national team did not have any friendly matches with other countries because two of its members were abroad. Therefore, Azzouni and Rifa'i had to test their preparedness by playing the top three ranked players from Iraq who are now training in Jordan.

The Iraqi champions Ahmad Oreibi, Ali Hussein and Kazem Hussein beat their Jordanian counterparts 2-1.

In addition, Azzouni and Rifa'i also played their coach, who was Iraq's champion for 14 years before retiring from competitive tennis in 1988.

The national team leaves for the Qatar capital, Doha, Monday. The delegation is headed by team captain Maher Al Tal.

Sampras wins Osaka final

OSAKA, Japan (R) — World number one Pete Sampras devastated qualifier Lionel Roux from France to win the \$650,000 Salem Open tennis tournament in Osaka, Japan, Sunday.

The 22-year-old Floridian crushed Roux 6-2 6-2 to collect the \$89,000 winner's share, clinching his fifth title this year and 25th career title.

Roux, ranked 210 in the world, has put on an impressive show this week, beating former number one Ivan Lendl, sixth seed American Aaron Krickstein and Swede Henrik Holm to reach Sunday's final.

The ginger-haired Frenchman, earned \$52,590 as runner-up and has shot up to the top 120's with his winnings.

It is the first time Roux has competed for a career title. His previous best tour results were second round showings at



Pete Sampras

Toulouse, where he defeated Bjorn Borg, and at the French Open in 1992.

"Even when it's very hard, Sampras hit even harder so it put a lot of pressure on me," said Roux who had only one

break point on his opponents' serve in the match.

"But it's been a great week for me. I earned a lot of points and now I can play in the bigger tournaments."

Said Sampras: "He hit his ground strokes very well and I had to work hard to win points. He is a player who can get better and better."

Sampras said much the same about his own game. "It's the best start I've had to a year. I've only lost twice and my tennis is getting better and better."

The doubles title went to the fourth-seeded pair, Martin Damm of the Czech Republic and Australian Sandon Stolle, who downed top seeds David Adams of Australia and Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia, 6-4 6-4.

The winning team earned \$39,000 and the runner-up pair \$32,650.

Knicks win 15th straight game

NEW YORK (R) — Hubert Davis had 21 points and Patrick Ewing scored 15 with 11 rebounds and six blocks leading the New York Knicks to a 115-87 win over the Miami Heat, for their 15th straight triumph Saturday.

The streak is the second-longest in franchise history, surpassed only by an 18-game streak in 1969-70.

The Knicks trailed, 38-36 midway through the second quarter before embarking on an 18-9 run to close the half with a 56-47 lead.

Miami was led by Harold Miner's 15 points.

In Washington, Don MacLean scored 29 points, leading the Washington Bullets to a 104-96 win over the Milwaukee Bucks in the battle to avoid the Eastern Conference's worst record.

The win moved Washington two games ahead of the Bucks, who fell to 19-52.

The Bucks have dropped 12 of their last 14 overall and nine straight on the road.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 31 points and 12 rebounds and

the Utah Jazz defeated the Denver Nuggets, 101-91, for just their second win in the last nine games.

Malone scored 17 points in the first half to help the Jazz build a 55-44 lead at intermission.

Utah took a 17-point lead (66-49) on Jeff Hornacek's two free throws with 4:47 left in the third.

The closest Denver was able to get was eight points with 1:12 left in the game.

Mahmoud Abdul Rauf had 19 points for the Nuggets.

In Dallas, Mark Price scored 24 points and John Williams added 23 points and 18 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers handed the Dallas Mavericks their 17th consecutive defeat, 95-88.

Doug Smith led Dallas with 23 points. Jim Jackson scored 22 for the Mavs.

At Indiana, Indiana got a season-high 38 points from Reggie Miller and Byron Scott had seven points during a key third-quarter run as the Pacers got by the Orlando Magic, 128-113.

Clinton yells, claps, leaps to cheer on Arkansas

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — President Clinton yelled, clapped and leaped to his feet Saturday as he cheered on his beloved Arkansas Razorbacks, who beat Arizona to advance to the National Collegiate Championship basketball game.

"Yes, yes," Clinton yelled, pumping his fist, as Arkansas came from behind in the second half to defeat Arizona 91-82.

The president, accompanied by wife Hillary, their 14-year-old daughter Chelsea and wearing an Arkansas ball cap, flew from San Diego to Charlotte after a week of vacation in Southern California and went straight from the airport to Charlotte Coliseum to watch the game.

A fervent fan who taught law school at Arkansas in the mid-1970s, Clinton sat in a "sky box" high in the stadium. He clapped, pumped his fists, jumped to his feet and added his voice to the loud yells of the Arkansas contingent.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YAMAM HUSCH
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COUNT YOUR TRICKS

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ A K 10 9 6 7
♣ A 10 6 5

EAST
♠ K Q 6
♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ 4 2

SOUTH
♠ J 9 4 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.
There are cardinal rules of declarer play: Plan your campaign before playing to the first trick; and count your tricks. South was guilty of negligence on both counts.

The auction was routine. North's solid club suit and secondary fit for partner's diamond suit fully justified a jump rebid. South could hardly do less than rebid three no trump.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and crafted a diamond. East could see the avalanche of clubs that was about to descend, so wasted no time in raising with the ace. Since West might have led a low heart from a holding headed by A J 10, East shifted to the king of spades. West signalled encouragement and East continued with the queen of spades and another to bag five tricks for the defenders.

It is possible declarer might have done better by running the clubs before starting on diamonds. However, had declarer taken stock before playing to the first trick, the winning line would have been apparent. Barring a 4-0 split, declarer can run seven club tricks. That means only two heart tricks were necessary to fulfill the game.

Those were there in full view. Instead of allowing the table's king of hearts to win the first trick, declarer should have overthrown with the ace and cashed the queen. Now seven club tricks would have brought South's total to nine.

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TODAY	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema Tel.: 675571	Nabli & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabli Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	DEAD AGAIN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Holly Floria & Alicia Anne in BIKINI ISLAND Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 CONCORD '2' THE FUGITIVE Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden	Watch for the surprise — The next play...	The theatre reopens Wednesday April 6 in the last two weeks of showing "Welcome Arab Summit" play

Patriarch urges Palestinians to end internal violence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem harshly attacked Palestinian "opportunists" in an Easter address that warned of rising civil strife in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"In addition to the general security situation, we are also saddened to see an internal security situation in Palestinian society in which opportunistic and irresponsible elements have begun to show," said Patriarch Michel Sabbah.

"These are destroying unity and security by their attacks on their brothers and indeed on the one Palestinian family," he added. "Do not allow them to succeed in sowing discrimination in your hearts."

Archbishop Sabbah led Easter mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where Christians believe Christ rose from the dead. Carrying a silver staff, the archbishop was preceded by the Muslim guards of the church, beating the ground with medieval canes. Archbishop Sabbah did not direct his words specifically at anyone but they came amid widespread anxiety among Palestinians that the imminent start of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho may heighten factional fighting.

In the Gaza Strip, law and order has almost collapsed as the Israeli army prepares to withdraw. Guns have flooded into Gaza recently and there has been a rise of inter-Palestinian fighting, often for personal rather than political motives. The main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas each kidnapped an activist from the other side over the weekend, the first time this has happened.

Archbishop Sabbah, who six years ago became the first Palestinian patriarch in the Latin Church, said the Feb. 25 massacre of dozens of worshippers in a mosque by a Jewish settler has spawned more violence.

"The victims are falling today and every day in our streets and cities. It saddens us that hatred remains in hearts. It is as if the circle of violence has been opened again," he said.

Archbishop Sabbah protested that once again Palesti-

nian Christians from the occupied territories had been stopped from attending holy week services because of a tight Israeli curfew following the massacre.

Few Palestinians from outside Jerusalem were there to hear him.

Orthodox Christians observe Easter Sunday on May 1 this year.

In a radio address for Easter monitored in Italy, the Archbishop Sabbah on Saturday urged Pope John Paul II to avoid a pilgrimage the pontiff mentioned during a recent Vatican visit by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He said the Pope should only consider such a trip "when the Christians here, like all the other inhabitants of the occupied territories, will have a certain freedom, will not be put under such severe security measures."

A steady stream of pilgrims and tourists converged on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the mass of the resurrection, conducted around the candle-lit marble shrine which for centuries has been venerated as the site of Christ's tomb.

Incense filled the cavernous 800-year-old church as Archbishop Sabbah, circled the shrine three times. Priests sang out "deus patri et gloria" and other Latin hymns as the crowd answered back "hallelujah." Devout men and women knelt before the stone of unbelief, where tradition says Jesus' body was covered with a shroud and anointed after being removed from the cross.

Four Israeli soldiers armed with assault rifles stood in the courtyard outside the church, but general security was invisible.

Under the clear blue skies, pilgrims strolled through the cobblestone alleys of the Old City past stalls featuring postcards, holy water, frankincense and other souvenirs on their way to the basilica, built by the Crusaders in the 12th century. Israeli tourism officials had predicted a 25 per cent increase over last year, but the Hebron massacre kept many away. Officials estimated 50,000 people were in the Holy Land for the holiday season, about the same as 1993.

Husseini holds talks with Majali

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Jawad Al Anani, several issues were discussed, including the question of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the need to highlight it in future Arab coordination meetings.

Mr. Hussein said the Jordanian and Palestinian sides at the meeting affirmed the need to preserve the Arab identity and character of the Holy City, particularly with regard to restoration works currently underway at holy sites.

"We have agreed that the issue of Jerusalem is most important, and thus we stressed the need to reactivate the role of the Jerusalem Committee set up earlier by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) within the framework of the comprehensive coordination between Jordan and the organisation," said Mr. Hussein. The committee will meet within the next few days, he said.

Mr. Hussein, the senior-most PLO official in the occupied territories, lauded Jordan's role in restoring and renovating the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem.

"This (project) has saved the Dome of the Rock (mosque)," he said, thanking the Jordan-

nian leadership for its assistance in this respect.

The renovation was launched upon personal efforts by His Majesty King Hussein, who himself donated \$8.2 million for the project, which is expected to be finished soon.

In reference to the PLO-Israel agreement signed in Cairo on Thursday, Mr. Hussein said speeding up the process of Israeli withdrawal and embarking on implementing the agreement was no doubt a step forward.

"We hope Israel would implement the agreement in a form that would serve the accord's purposes," he noted. He said the deployment of Western observers in Hebron was not sufficient for the protection of the Palestinian residents there, but that it would help.

"What would be adequate is a complete Israeli withdrawal from the city and the uprooting of (Jewish) settlements in the area," Mr. Hussein said.

"Although the Western presence is not enough protection for Hebron residents, it will help somehow," said Mr. Hussein.

Mr. Hussein arrived here Saturday from the PLO headquarters in Tunisia en route to the West Bank.

Israeli police quit Gaza, Jericho

(Continued from page 1)

pected to set up a base once Israel withdraws.

Palestinian youths hurled bottles and stones into the police courtyard and border police answered with tear-gas and concussion grenades. Some of the grenades landed in a hospital courtyard nearby, but there was no indication that patients were harmed.

"They are still shooting at us, and we won't stop throwing stones until they are gone," said Mohammad Jericha.

Police commander Yigal Alon said the police withdrawal started Sunday, but they were not actually leaving. Asked about the protests outside, he said, "I guess they don't want us to go."

Shortly before the clashes began, a half-dozen police in blue uniforms gathered outside

the station for good-bye picture taking.

In Gaza City, Israeli police pulled out of three buildings used by police and the paramilitary border police, leaving behind only a guard detail.

Police dismantled antennas, transmitters and trailers that had been used as offices. Others were busy cleaning and painting.

"Just like the army, we are making preparations to move out in the shortest amount of time. Whatever is not absolute necessary is being removed," said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen.

"But we are still there, and we are not leaving just yet," he added.

An army spokesman said there was no reduction in the number of Israeli forces in the occupied lands.



HUMAN SHIELD: Two Palestinians stand on from throwing stones at the vehicles in Jericho in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)

Iraq assails Saudi Arabia as GCC urges continued sanctions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Iraqi newspaper Sunday attacked statements by Saudi Arabia in which it warned Gulf states against backing Baghdad's efforts to end trade sanctions.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency quoted the daily Al Thawra as saying Saturday's remarks by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal were dictated by the United States and its allies.

The newspaper said Prince Saud was "echoing his master's voice as a humble and minor follower" with the aim of "keeping the Gulf states under the threat of imperialism, which he represents."

Iraq has been campaigning in the Arab World to end an oil embargo and trade sanctions that have been in force since the invasion of Kuwait.

Prince Saud, in remarks to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers gathered in Riyadh, said Baghdad was "trying to split the GCC, which has been the firm rock that stood up to its ambitions and destroyed its aggression."

He demanded that the council's member states "affirm the solidity and stability of this stand and close the door against any such attempts."

The GCC is led by Saudi Arabia and includes Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman. The GCC ministers ended their meeting on Sunday urging the United Nations to hold fast to the sanctions imposed on Iraq. They said Baghdad continued to pose a threat to its neighbours' peace and

stability.

The ministers said after the two-day meeting that the Security Council should keep up pressure on Iraq to abide by resolutions by maintaining its ban on Iraqi sales of crude oil and limiting trade with it to food and medicines.

Iraq "continues to threaten the security and stability of our countries," the ministers said in a statement.

Prince Saud said when he opened the meeting on Saturday Iraq was making contacts across the Arab World to seek support for the lifting of U.N. sanctions before Baghdad had fully complied with U.N. resolutions.

The ministers cited Iraq's refusal to recognise Kuwait's borders as redefined by a U.N. commission after the 1991 war and the continued detention of hundreds of Kuwaitis that were rounded up in the emirate during Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Iraq has denied holding Kuwaiti prisoners.

Iraq criticised

The GCC ministers also backed Saudi Arabia in its row with Iran over the Haj.

The foreign ministers' statement declared "full and absolute support" for the kingdom's measures to control the number of pilgrims due to perform the pilgrimage in May.

They noted a "marked escalation" in Iranian media attack on the kingdom and condemned recent Iranian press reports on "what they

claim that the kingdom is obstructing Iranian pilgrims."

Teburan newspapers have sharply attacked Saudi Arabia in the past three weeks after spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the kingdom might turn the Haj into "another tool in the hands of America and big powers."

Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh also blamed Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, for low oil prices.

Iranian officials say Riyadh wants to halve the number of Iranians going to the Haj next month to about 60,000.

The GCC statement said the ministers supported Saudi Arabia's arrangements, including its enforcement of a 1988 decision by Islamic ministers who set a quota of one pilgrim per 1,000 Muslims for each country to avoid congestion at holy sites.

Iranian officials say Iran has two plans for this year's rituals — one to send about 120,000 pilgrims, the same number as in the past three years, and one to send about 60,000 — which is based on the 1988 quota.

The quota was unofficially waived for Iran in the past three years after Iranians ended a three-year boycott to protest against a ban on political activity during the Haj following riots in Mecca in 1987 in which 402 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

Iran says the waiver was part of a formal agreement which paved the way for resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1991. Riyadh denies it made any such deal.

Settler 'mayor' sees massacres

(Continued from page 1)

Commission President Judge Meir Shargut told army investigator Brigadier-General David Agmon of a "thesis" the judges had that a second man opened fire on the worshippers from the far side of the Ibrahim Mosque.

"We haven't yet decided" on the second man, judge Abdul Rahman Zoabi said, but the judges pressed Gen. Agmon on gaps in his investigation of the Feb. 25 massacre.

The judges noted that Gen. Agmon's report used ballistic and trajectory findings to place killer Baruch Goldstein at three different positions in the mosque.

Judge Eliezer Goldberg asked Gen. Agmon how Goldstein could have entered through the main entrance, shot several rounds, and

travelled 25 metres without being attacked — unless there was an accomplice.

Gen. Agmon, who described the possibility of an accomplice as "possible, but not probable," said he believed Goldstein protected himself by shooting until he had returned to his point of entry — perhaps with the intention of escaping — when he was set upon while switching clips.

Worshippers beat Goldstein to death. A Gilion assault rifle and seven clips were found next to Goldstein's body in the mosque after the attack.

The judges also raised earlier testimony from two soldiers guarding the site, who said they saw Goldstein enter the site with an M-16 assault rifle, and said they saw a second mystery settler carrying a Gilion.

Gen. Agmon noted that Goldstein's assigned weapon,

as a reserves major in the army's medical corps, was the Gilion found in the mosque. But he acknowledged that many witnesses had seen Goldstein carrying an M-16 in the weeks prior to the massacre, although he had never been assigned an M-16.

The shells recovered at the site were from the Gilion, Gen. Agmon said. But Mr. Zoabi suggested that the second gunman might have switched guns with Goldstein, and used a special sack to retain the shells from the M-16.

Gen. Agmon countered that a shell-retaining sack would have been cumbersome. But the extremist Kach movement, with which Goldstein was associated, has advertised the existence of specially-made sacks in recent years, as a means of avoiding police detection.

Another Aqaba-bound ship denied entry

(Continued from page 1)

panel, which includes representatives of all the 15 members of the Security Council.

"We could not but reach a conclusion that the U.S. is mostly trying unilaterally to cater to the desires of some of the Gulf states by maintaining the sanctions on Iraq and also pressure on Jordan," said the Jordanian, who declined to be identified further.

The Jordanian government has filed several memoranda with the Sanctions Committee raising this particular point, but no action had been adopted, diplomats said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last week that he was looking for ways to ease the impact the embargo against Iraq is having on Jordan.

"We're certainly working on that," Mr. Christopher said. "We'd like to find some way to ease the burden on Jordan of these inspections... we recognise the pressure on Jordan

and the disadvantages to Jordan's economy."

The U.S. has always maintained that it has Security Council authorisation to enforce the sanctions which the world body imposed in August 1990 following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Legal experts have questioned this assertion, however.

Ali Dmour, head of the Jordanian Jurists Association, said: "Legally there is a grey area between what the U.S. claims as the authorisation it has from the Security Council and the actual modality of enforcing the sanctions."

"But in reality there is no such formal authorisation and the enforcement of the sanctions and the interception of Aqaba-bound vessels were adopted by the U.S. in its own interpretation of how to monitor respect for the sanctions," Mr. Dmour told the Jordan Times.

Despite the argument, it is unlikely that any bid to challenge the American assertion will be entertained in the U.S.-

dominated Security Council, observers say.

"But that does not mean that we should shut up and put up with whatever way the U.S. wants to deal with us," said the Jordanian who attended the meeting with the Sanctions Committee official.

A European diplomat said: "Jordanian patience has to be commended since (the Kingdom) put up with the status quo for more than three years before deciding that enough was enough and took a firm position."

"I think most of the European countries support the Jordanian stand although it is not yet clear what individual governments would do to help the Kingdom," added the diplomat.

So far, only France, whose ships often participate in the U.S.-led force patrolling the Red Sea, has publicly said that it supported the Jordanian position and that an urgent solution to the siege of Aqaba had to be found.

Returnees face key task in occupied land

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The 49 Palestinian expellees whom a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said on Sunday were to be allowed by Israel to return home are expected to fill a power vacuum in the organisation.

"People are waiting for things to change, for the chaos to end," said Said Kanaan, a businessman from Nabulus close to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "The returnees will be kind of a reference point."

"Now there is nobody people can resort to with their problems because of internal splits," added Mr. Kanaan, whose house was shot at by unknown gunmen last week.

Many of the 49 expellees named by PLO official Faisal Al Hussein, speaking to reporters in Amman, were grassroots leaders expelled by Israel before or during the Palestinian uprising. Exiled in Jordan or Tunis, they entered senior ranks of the PLO.

As the expellees, who will

start returning this week, rejoiced at the prospect of seeing their homes and family again. Palestinians inside the West Bank and Gaza pored over their names and tried to work out who would do what.

The PLO closed most of its offices in the occupied territories last week, ostensibly in a protest at the killing by soldiers of six Fatah activists in Gaza. Many Palestinians think another major reason was to stop raging turf battles within the PLO faction.

Fatah activists in Gaza and Nabulus have been shot in internal feuds in recent weeks. Four senior Gaza figures linked to the faction were assassinated in Gaza last year in killings widely thought to be linked to internal struggles.

"The deportees have two significant roles to play. The euphoria they create might offset the decrease of support the PLO has suffered recently and they will help to consolidate Fatah," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a former negotiator.

Oil spill threatens UAE fishing town

DIBA, United Arab Emirates (Agencies) — An oil spill from a tanker collision is threatening a fishing town in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and has driven tourists away from some popular Arabian Sea beaches, officials said Sunday.

"Fishermen will suffer. In one place we saw at least 80 boats which couldn't enter the sea because of the oil," a UAE official said while inspecting the port of Diba, set in a wide bay ringed by rust-coloured mountains.

Workers were setting up a floating boom to protect moored fishing boats from the oil, spilled when two tankers collided just outside the Gulf late on Wednesday night.

But small amounts of oil from the slick, said by port officials in the emirate of Fujairah on Saturday to contain around 16,000 tonnes of crude, had already seeped into the harbour and begun to stain the azure water a greasy black.

"I think the amount of oil might even be double the 16,000-tonne figure. The slick is over 30 kilometres and it's very thick in places," the UAE government official said.

Officials say the disaster could have been much worse if the oil spilled had been heavy, like much of the crude produced in the Gulf. The cargo which is lapping the Arabian Sea beaches is of Iranian crude oil originally destined for Japan.

Iran was offering to cooperate with Gulf Arab states and international bodies to help clear up the slick, Iran's official Tehran Radio said.

"Large quantities of oil are washing up on beaches... and help is now required to avoid a major disaster to the area's beaches and marine life," said an official statement issued by the government of Fujairah.

Fujairah said dead fish, turtles and other forms of marine life had washed ashore and scientists had been sent to the area to assess damage to beaches and to marine life.

"Immediate large-scale help is now required to prevent this disaster causing long-term damage to Fujairah's beaches and local marine life, with a consequent impact on the fishing and tourist industries," it said.

The spill soiled patches of beach along more than 30 kilometres of the UAE's east coastline stretching from north Fujairah to Khor Fakkan and beyond to Diba, according to shipping executives.

Fujairah port officials said the main body of the slick was only a few kilometres south of Diba, a town shared between the UAE and Oman. Many of the town's people depend for their livelihoods on its small fish market.

The slick has moved northwards up the UAE's Arabian Sea coast since the collision about 16 kilometres off Fujairah. Patches of crude have drifted ashore, blackened sandy beaches and filled the air with a reek of petrol.

But it has moved on past major installations and big hotels in Fujairah town and the smaller port of Khor Fakkan, a major tourist destination in the UAE.

The two towns lie close together some 100 kilometres from the Gulf's entrance at the Straits of Hormuz.

The manager of a beachside hotel in Khor Fakkan pointed to sparkling water and clean sand and said the town was unaffected. But he added that some misleading press reports about the slick had led to some cancelled reservations.

But one beach hotel further north said most of its guests had quit their rooms, driven away by oil encrusting the sand.

A desalination plant which provides nearly all the area's fresh water also remained untouched some 16 kilometres from the scene of the collision between the 57,211-tonne UAE tanker Baynunah, which was in ballast, and the 298,238-tonne Seki.

Algeria: Fundamentalism threatens Arab Maghreb

TUNIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zerrouk, faced with an accelerating armed insurrection by militants, told his Maghreb neighbours on Sunday they are all threatened by Islamic fundamentalism.

"Certain foreign forces are trying to take advantage of this situation to strike at the unity and stability of our country... while hiding behind our religion and our most sacred values," Mr. Zerrouk said at the end of an Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit.

"We believe that these plots... are not just at Algeria but are part of a horrible plan that aims at all of us as Muslim societies moving step-by-step toward progress," he added.

The AMU was formed in 1989 to forge Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia into a common market but has made little progress in the past five years because of political and economic disputes among the members.

Diplomats in the region say that most of Algeria's neighbours fear its unrest may spread and undermine their societies, adding that this will likely limit further AMU cooperation.

Mr. Zerrouk did not name which "foreign forces" were promoting the armed struggle

in Algeria, but in the past the country has accused Iran and Sudan of interference in its affairs.

Appointed president by Algeria's military leadership two months ago, Mr. Zerrouk made his first official trip abroad to attend the Maghreb summit and to take over its rotating presidency from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

The union, which has signed scores of economic accords since its founding but implemented few, reached 11 agreements during the summit, including one that repeats its long-standing ambition of creating a free-trade zone.

The others included cooperation agreements in the areas of cinema, customs, insurance and communications.

In the summit's closing statement, the union called for an end to the United Nations embargo imposed on Libya after the 1988 Lockerbie aircraft bombing.

Khouleidi Hamidi, a top Libyan official, on Saturday demanded the summit take firm steps to ease the embargo. Libya has long criticised its AMU partners for applying the embargo, arguing that it runs against the spirit of the union.

Prince Edward to marry

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's youngest son Prince Edward will marry his girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, in a low-key ceremony this summer, the Sunday Express reported.

The newspaper said senior palace sources say preparations are well advanced for a wedding in late July or early August. "It will be a low-key wedding and will take place before the first leaves fall," the Sunday Express quoted an unnamed peer with close connections to the royal family as saying. There was no immediate comment from Buckingham Palace. On Saturday, the couple were reported on their way to Windsor Castle, west of London, where the queen and family traditionally spend several weeks at Easter. Courtiers were quoted in newspapers as saying Ms. Rhys-Jones, a 29-year-old public relations executive, was being introduced to the royal way of life to give her a clear insight into the world she would enter on marrying Prince Edward. Prince Edward, 30, is the queen's only unmarried child. The other three — heir Prince Charles, Princess Anne and Prince Andrew — have had troubled marriages.

Prince Edward, who is a member of the House of Commons, is said to be a keen sportsman and a keen supporter of the British racing industry.

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